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# Social and Economic Life in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, 1830-1850, as Reflected in the Plantation Diary of Bennet H. Barrow.

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE IN WEST FELICIANA PARISH,  
LOUISIANA, 1830-1850, AS REFLECTED IN THE  
PLANTATION DIARY OF BENNET H. BARROW

A DISSERTATION  
SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

AN ABSTRACT

BY  
EDWIN ADAMS DAVIS, B. S., M. A.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

JUNE, 1936

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The purpose of this study is to present a cross-section of plantation life in West Feliciana parish, Louisiana, one hundred years ago, as reflected in the plantation diary of Bennet H. Barrow. Barrow was a typical planter of the region and a careful study of his diary will enable the reader to draw a fairly accurate picture of economic and social life in that felicitous land drained by the waters of Thompson's creek and Big Bayou Sara. The bringing to light of this rare, though common-place plantation document, with an analytic introduction, explanatory footnotes, and an appendix and glossary of related materials, is a definite contribution to the source literature of the ante-bellum South. This work has been preceded by the labors of U. B. Phillips, John Spencer Bassett, Franklin L. Riley, Abigail Curlee, and others, in the field of plantation source studies, but whereas in the main their work concerned letters, business papers, overseer's reports, or brief plantation accounts, this project presents a complete plantation diary replete with details of all phases of agricultural economy on a Louisiana plantation.

The study begins with a brief explanatory account of West Feliciana parish. Early exploration, topography, soil, and climate, early settlement, economic development, growth of the towns of St. Francisville and Bayou Sara, internal developments and improvements, and the growth of a distinct social and cultural life, are among the topics treated in a brief introduction to the parish, an introduction which

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enables the reader to acclimate himself and to acquire a working knowledge of the locale of Highland plantation. He is enabled to visualize the country from the rolling Tunica hills in the northwest part of the parish to the pine flats on its eastern borders. The names Bayou Sara, Thompson's creek, and Radcliff's Lake, localize themselves in this mind-picture, thereby facilitating an imaginary journey up the waters of Little Bayou Sara creek to the rich bottoms and timbered lands of Highland plantation.

The introduction analyzes in a brief sketch the planter's life at the plantation during the 1830's and 1840's. It opens with an account of the emigration of the Barrow family to Louisiana during the late years of the eighteenth century, a long and tedious journey from the worn-out lands of North Carolina to the Feliciana frontier. The elder Barrow built with foresight and left his son a plantation already well in cultivation and an adequate labor supply, a heritage which the son subsequently augmented with purchases of both land and slaves. Plantation finance follows with an account of the cost of land acquisitions, the relations of the planter with his various factors and bankers; a summary of his endorsements and personal loans to neighborhood agriculturists. As the production of a staple crop was the purpose of the plantation system this aspect is treated at more length. The problems of general routine employed much of the planter's time, especially when the services of overseers were not used, and the year's work varied from planting time in the early Spring to the Winter work of wood cutting and the repair of buildings and equipment. These operations brought the Master of Highland both joy and sorrow, though often he was tempted to move elsewhere. In

the end he was won by the good work of his negroes, the pleasing location, or the flattering recognition of neighboring planters who in more than one instance when viewing his crop said that they had "seen no crop at all to compare with it." A section is devoted to machinery and improvements, for Barrow was prudent enough to follow the trends of the times in mechanized agriculture, to fertilize and rotate his crops, and to keep his outbuildings in good condition. As the backbone of the economic system of the South was its black slaves the inhabitants of Barrow's quarter are not neglected. His attitude toward that "peculiar institution," his purchases, the births and deaths among his "black folk," and the organization of his gangs, reveals some of the planter's problems. The punishments meted out to refractory slaves for poor work or violation of his "Rules," the discarding of the overseer system, problems of diet, sanitation, general health, marriage, religion, and perhaps most interesting of all, his system of gifts of money, clothing, trinkets, and holidays and dinners, — all are outlined in this word-picture of slave life.

In addition to economic interests Barrow's social and sporting activities claim their share of attention. The plantation regime offered much in the way of social life which has disappeared with modern mechanized American life since the Civil War period. Hunting and fishing excursions, parties and dances of all varieties, musicals, driving and horseback riding, added to the natural zest of living in that semi-feudalistic Feliciana atmosphere as if of old England. At one period in his career, Barrow was a racing enthusiast and "Josh Bell," "Fanny

Bell," and other horses that were of Louisiana, if not of national importance, receive their just share of attention. As the diary contains much personal material not usually found in such plantation records a section is devoted to a discussion of Barrow's personal life; his travels, his opinions on the political subjects of the day, his cultural attainments, and his religious views. After all Barrow was but one of many Southern planters and in most respects he was very similar to the majority of his economic group.

Following this introduction appears the "Plantation Diary of Bennett H. Barrow," a section of some three hundred pages, carefully copied and edited with scattering explanatory footnotes. Some editorial liberties have been taken but on the whole the editor made an attempt to reproduce the document as nearly the original as was possible. Words are left misspelled, punctuation is noticeable by its absence or misuse, but the whole has been cut into intelligible phrases and sections by the use of spaces. Following the diary is a lengthy appendix and glossary of supplementary material which explains many topics and terms to the reader, and which will enable him to complete the picture of Barrow's career as a Louisiana planter. The whole project has been, in the main, one of careful editing, organization, and explanation. The result is a source study of ante-bellum plantation life the significance of which is apparent to the student of Southern history.

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June, 1936

## PREFACE

The present editorial project is not an attempt to bring to light the record of an unusual or exceptional Southern agriculturist, or one who made significant contributions to American or Southern agriculture, but merely to reflect the social and economic life in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, as recorded by a planter of that region during two decades of the ante-bellum period. Bennet H. Barrow was typical of his time, his locale, and his station in the plantation regime. He planted, he bought land, he engaged in sports, and he watched with careful eye the inhabitants of his quarter. He is not to be compared with the noted agriculturists the South has produced. But he religiously kept a plantation diary in which he recorded the work of the plantation, the events of the day, and even his most private thoughts. The diary, as a source for the study of the social and economic life of the ante-bellum South, has a value difficult to overestimate. During the past decade and a half several projects of this nature have been completed but until the whole section south of Mason and Dixon's Line is systematically covered the true picture of that glamorous period of Southern history will not be painted.

The diary has been very carefully copied and it is believed that it has been as correctly reproduced as has been possible under the circumstances, for the lack of punctuation, the peculiarities of spelling, the individual style of penmanship, and the usual ravages of time upon a century-old document have made many places almost impossible of decipherization. In the preparation of the manuscript for publication the editor has taken liberties which should be explained to the reader. In order to save the time and preserve the patience of the reader the material has been systematically rearranged. The daily entries have been placed chronologically with uniform datings, the incomplete marginal totalings of cotton pickings has been deleted, and the planter's tabulations and plantation rules have been relegated to the Appendix. Capitalization, punctuation, and spelling have been left practically unchanged for the peculiarities of that time are of much significance to the present-day student of American social history. But to clarify the meaning and to facilitate a more rapid reading the material has been divided into phases and sentences by the insertion of spaces. Discrepancies have been observed in the diary particularly with regard to finances but no attempt has been made to correct such errors. The whole has been footnoted but sparsely. There is no means of identifying many of the planters mentioned; fields or cuts have been impossible of location, and the exact relationship of the writer to numerous members of the Barrow clan is a task impossible of solution. In brief, an attempt has been

made to make the diary readable without changing its original character and without detracting from its usefulness as a rare document of historical significance.

No one engaged in historical research does his work alone and during the preparation of this editorial project many friends have lent generously of themselves. First, my sincere thanks to Mrs. Wade Noland, Bains, Louisiana, a descendant of Bennet H. Barrow and the present owner of his plantation record, for permission to edit the diary. To many friends in the Florida parishes of Louisiana and in southwest Mississippi my most sincere gratitude, but in particular to Mrs. D. I. Norwood, Highland plantation, Bains, Louisiana; Miss Louise Butler, The Cottage, Bains, Louisiana; Mrs. L. P. Connor, Natchez, Mississippi; and to Mr. George Lester, Waverly plantation, Bains Louisiana, for the use of their excellent plantation collections and for their assistance in many phases of the work. Mr. Elrie Robinson, editor of the St. Francisville Democrat, St. Francisville, Louisiana, has lent freely of his excellent contemporary West Feliciana newspaper collection. Mr. James A. McMillen, Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, and Mr. Robert J. Usher, Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans, Louisiana, have given liberally of their time and the materials at their disposal. To Professors Walter Prichard, W. H. Stephenson, and E. Merton Coulter, of the History faculty, Louisiana State University, my deepest gratitude for their encouragement, direction, constructive



criticism, and assistance at all stages of the work. Mr. William R. Hogan, Regional Historian of the National Park Service, has read the introduction and his labors have greatly increased its value. And finally to my wife, Lerna Rowe-Davis, goes credit for having faithfully checked the work, and for having given encouragement during those hours when the end hardly seemed worth the effort.

Edwin Adams Davis

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## INTRODUCTION

## The Parish of West Feliciana

The parish of West Feliciana lies to the east of the Mississippi River just south of the thirty-first parallel in the northwest corner of that section known as the Florida parishes of Louisiana. Local legend informs one that it was Ponce de Leon who first visited the land and gave it the romantic and euphaneous name of Neuva Feliciana, "in recognition of its salubrity of climate, beautiful variety of forest, its clear waters and fertile soil." It is further recounted that De Soto gazed upon its magnificent bluffs as he lay dying at the mouth of the Red River, and that Tonti, companion of La Salle, who lived for some time with the Houma Indians, was<sup>1</sup> the first white man to live in the region.

Three distinct types of topography are displayed in the region. Progressing eastward from the Mississippi, narrow alluvial flats are first encountered which soon give way to bluff lands that are thought to be composed of glacial rock-flour, carried in ages past by the greatly strengthened streams from the melting ice of the glaciers in the north. These formations are, therefore, post-glacial and are so even textured

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<sup>1</sup> For an interesting account of the parish see Louise Butler, "West Feliciana, a Glimpse of its History," in Louisiana Historical Quarterly, vol. VII, pp. 90-120 (Jan., 1924).

and homogeneous in character as to enable them to resist the ordinary processes of weathering but so friable as to yield very rapidly to sediment-laden running water. In the northwest corner of the parish the Tunica hills rise several hundred feet above the level of the modern alluvium and the bold expanses of the bluffs gave one visitor the opportunity to compare their beauty to the Alps of Switzerland.<sup>2</sup> To the eastward lie the pine hills. Here is found a topography developed in a former geologic age and ushered into the present era without essential change, as only a thin veneer of sediment has been deposited shrouding but not concealing the true nature of the land. The two major streams of the parish, Thompson's creek and Bayou Sara, head beyond the thirty-first parallel in Mississippi and flow with gentle fall in a southwesterly direction. Minor water courses cut the region into many sections while the steep, youthful, V-shaped valleys of the Tunica hills change with slight perception to gradual slopes of pine hills.

The soil of the parish is generally good, being in most parts an intermingling of brown loam with fine clay loam of indeterminate depth. On the slopes a mixture of loam and calcareous silts produces an excellent soil. The climate is generally very mild. During the late fall and winter northwest winds occasionally bring frosts but severe winters are a rar-

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<sup>2</sup> T. W. Poole, Some Late Words about Louisiana (New Orleans, 1891), p. 90.

ity. As a general rule there is less heat and more moisture during the summer months than in similar latitudes to the eastward. Rainfall occurs chiefly between December and August, the dry months being February and April with May punctuated by light showers. Nights are cool during the months of July and August, the Gulf breeze contributing materially to the lower temperature. The combination of good soil, sulubrious climate and a plenteous rainfall has given the region a flora hardly equaled anywhere in the South. Numerous magnolias, sweet gums, cherrys, elms, locusts, hickorys and beeches dot the slopes, shrubs and grasses blanket the earth, the whole producing a landscape much boasted of by Felicianians.<sup>3</sup> The happy union of topography and climate resulted in an extremely healthful

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<sup>3</sup> The following works contain descriptions of the region: An Account of Louisiana (Washington, 1803), passim.; Thomas Ashe, Travels in America, 3 vols. (London, 1808), pp. 212-213; Robert Baird (Richard Bache), View of the Valley of the Mississippi (Philadelphia, 1834), p. 275; William Bartram, Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida (Philadelphia, 1791), p. 432; H. M. Brackenridge, Views of Louisiana (Pittsburgh, 1814), pp. 282-283; Theodore Clapp, Autobiographical Sketches and Recollections (Boston, 1857), p. 65; Zedok Cramer, The Navigator (Pittsburgh, 1806), pp. 73-74; J. H. Ingraham, The Sunny South (Philadelphia, 1860), p. 296; Charles Lanman, Adventures in the Wilds of the United States, 2 vols. (Philadelphia, 1856), vol. I, passim.; Louisiana Churchman (New Orleans), May 16 and August 29, 1888; Louisiana Journal (St. Francisville), May 27, 1828; Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi, 3 vols. (Atlanta, 1907), vol. II, p. 966; Chirstian Schultz, Travels on an Inland Voyage Through the States of New York, . . . and Through the Territories of Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Orleans (New York, 1810), p. 181; William C. Stubbs, A Handbook of Louisiana (New Orleans, 1895), pp. 20, 169, 172-174, 266-268; Amos Stoddard, Sketches of Louisiana (Philadelphia, 1812), pp. 114-115; True Democrat (St. Francisville), February 24, 1917; D. B. Warden, A Statistical, Political, and Historical Account of the United States of North America, 2 vols. (Edinburgh, 1819), vol. II, pp. 490-491, 498, 522-523, 531.

region which was in direct contrast to other sections of Louisiana where "Yellow Jack" held sway at various seasons of the year, a condition not overlooked by land speculators in their advertising of numerous holdings.<sup>4</sup> William Darby, who wrote one of the early descriptions of the region, summarized, "This parish is certainly one of the most favoured spots in Louisiana. The land is generally good; some is of the first rate, and but little sterile. The water and timber excellent. The natural productions have been noticed in our general view of West Florida. . . . Unlike those on the alluvial borders of the rivers, the settlements in this parish are scattered over the country as in the Mississippi territory. The farms are many of them of large extent. Though some other articles are often produced and sent to market, cotton may be viewed as the great staple; it is made here of excellent quality."<sup>5</sup>

West Feliciana was settled very early in the colonial period of Louisiana. The first whites are generally supposed to have settled near the Tunica Indians about 1712 or 1713 and to have almost immediately begun the cultivation of cotton,<sup>6</sup> which had been introduced into Louisiana some years before. Settlement progressed slowly during the decades of French occu-

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4 Eaton Rouge Gazette, August 31, 1833; Louisiana Churchman, August 29, 1888; Louisiana Journal, August 20, 1825; Niles' Weekly Register (Baltimore), May 14, 1831; Phoenix (St. Francisville), September 7, 1833.

5 William Darby, A Geographical Description of the State of Louisiana (New York, 1817), p. 95, passim.

6 Butler, loc. cit., p. 93.

pation. After Great Britain secured control of the Floridas by the Treaty of Paris of 1763, an effort was made by the Board of Trade to attract settlers to the region by advertisements in the London Gazette and in 1764 a circular was issued by Governor George Johnstone to tempt prospective inhabitants. By 1766 a colony from North Carolina had made the long and tedious coastal sea voyage and had settled somewhere between Baton Rouge and Natchez.<sup>7</sup> After Spain became the owner of the territory Americans were permitted to receive grants of land and Anglo-Saxon emigration and settlement began.<sup>8</sup> Many came from Virginia and North Carolina and from other sections of the South, until by the time the United States acquired complete title to the territory the greater percentage of the population was already American, though as late as 1828 tax rolls were published in both French and English to meet the needs of the French inhabitants.<sup>9</sup> By 1820 the parish was past the frontier stage and the best lands had been acquired by those great landholders who within the decade were to control, as did the feudal lords of medieval Europe, the destinies of the region.

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<sup>7</sup> Herbert E. Bolton and Thomas M. Marshall, Colonization of North America (New York, 1921), p. 408.

<sup>8</sup> U. B. Phillips, ed., Plantation and Frontier Documents, 1649-1863, Vol. I, p. 86, in J. R. Commons, et al., A Documentary History of American Industrial Society, 10 vols. (Cleveland, 1909-1911); I. J. Cox, West Florida Controversy, 1798-1813; A Study in American Diplomacy (Baltimore, 1918), p. 59; Charles Gayarre, History of Louisiana, 4 vols. (New Orleans, 1903), Vol. IV, pp. 229-230; John W. Monette, History of the Discovery and Settlement of the Valley of the Mississippi, 2 vols. (New York, 1846), Vol. II, p. 486.

<sup>9</sup> Louisiana Journal, June 21, 1828.



The most important period of emigration and settlement came between 1800 and 1830. The last Spanish census gave the district of Baton Rouge, which included "all the settlements between the Iberville and the line of demarcation," a total population of 1513 of whom 539 were slaves,<sup>10</sup> yet twenty years later the parish of New Feliciana, which was divided in 1824 into the two parishes of East and West Feliciana, boasted a total population of 12,730 of whom 7,164 were slaves.<sup>11</sup> From 1820 to 1850 the white population remained fairly stationary being 2,019 in 1830, 2,064 in 1840, and 2,473 in 1850; while the slave inhabitants grew from 6,345 in 1830, to 8,755 in 1840 and 10,666 by the middle of the century.<sup>12</sup>

Until the 1840's the parish was essentially a cotton producing region. At the beginning of that decade approximately one-fifth of the 200,000 acres of land in the parish were in cultivation, but by 1850 nearly two-fifths of the total acreage was being tilled, the production in that year running well over 40,000 bales of 400 pounds each. By 1850 many of the planters had turned to the cultivation of sugar cane with a proportionate decline in the production of cotton, the production of sugar reaching more than 4,750 hogsheads while cotton fell to a little more than 18,000 bales. Though cotton and sugar were the staples of the region other agricultural

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<sup>10</sup> Topographical and Statistical Account of the Province of Louisiana (Baltimore, 1803), Appendix.

<sup>11</sup> Amos W. Bell, The State Register (Baton Rouge, 1855), pp. 128-129.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

products were of importance. More than 360,000 bushels of corn were produced in 1850, 8,000 pounds of rice found home consumption or foreign market, and nearly 400,000 gallons of molasses were produced by direct manufacture or as a by-product of the sugar industry. In the same year the livestock of the parish was valued at nearly \$400,000, an estimate which included horses, asses, mules, "milch" cows, work oxen, other cattle, sheep and swine. Farm implements and machinery were estimated as having a value of more than \$323,000, while the total figure for real and personal property reached \$8,156,000, a valuation much higher than any of the other rural sections of the state except the so-called "sugar" parishes.

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West Feliciana had one urban center, the twin villages of St. Francisville and Bayou Sara. The former was the parish seat and was situated on a high eminence overlooking the Mississippi just south of the mouth of Bayou Sara creek; while the latter nestled at the foot of the bluff, the entrepot of the parish and a river port of great importance. These cities were of outstanding commercial significance to the agriculturists of the region as was well illustrated by the editor

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13 General Statement of the Statistics of the State of Louisiana Taken from the Official Rolls of Assessment made by the several Parish and District Assessors of the State, According to Law, in 1847 (New Orleans, 1847), p. 11; John Perkins, Statistics of the Third Congressional District of the State of Louisiana (Washington, 1854), pp. 4, 10-14; Statistics of the Third Congressional District (Composing sixteen parishes) of the State of Louisiana, compiled from the United States Census Returns of 1840 and 1850 (n. d.), pp. 10-14.

of the Louisiana Journal (St. Francisville) when, in 1825, he wrote, "between three and four thousand teams traverse our streets annually, bringing to our landing the produce of the finest cotton growing country upon earth, and carrying therefrom the products of the states of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. We ourselves are lost in wonder that the growth of our village does not keep pace with our commerce."<sup>14</sup> Bayou Sara was a thriving Mississippi River port during the whole of the pre-Civil War period, and though statistics showing the tonnage shipped are not available, its commercial significance cannot be under-estimated. The river front thronged with wharves, warehouses and commission merchants. Great steamboats were constantly tied up, loading and unloading both freight and passengers and each edition of the newspapers printed advertisements regarding the attractive features of the "Belle Creole," "Bayou Sara," "Rainbow," "Brilliant," "Persian," and other carriers of the river.

During the whole ante-bellum period the editors of the local press were men of ability who never failed to grasp the opportunity to praise their towns, their parish and the region in general. As early as 1825 one editor wrote, "We can see no reason why St. Francisville should not, ere long, become one of the most wealthy and thriving towns on the Mississippi; - As a port, none in Louisiana commands a greater extent of back

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<sup>14</sup> Louisiana Journal, October 22, 1825.

territory; and surely, in no part of the state can a greater body of good land be found than is contained in this and the adjacent parishes, together with the lower parts of the state of Mississippi, all of which are dependent on the Bayou Sara landing for the shipment of their produce, and the procurement of the supplies necessary for the wants of their inhabitants."<sup>15</sup>

Internal developments and improvements came rapidly after 1820. The Police Jury, the governing body of the parish, planned good road systems, established and regulated ferries located at strategic locations on the Mississippi, and erected<sup>16</sup> bridges over the many streams of the parish. Stage lines ran to Port Hudson and Baton Rouge, to Clinton and Jackson, to Woodville and Natchez and in 1838 one such line advertised a "modern" post coach, drawn by four fine horses, to leave Bayou Sara and St. Francisville at nine o'clock each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning thus "allowing passengers an<sup>17</sup> opportunity to eat their breakfast before starting." In December, 1830, a meeting held at the Court House at St. Francisville resulted in the organization of the West Feliciana Railroad, which was incorporated by the state the following year. Books of subscription were opened in Woodville, Mississippi, in May, 1831, and by the end of the year the road was under construction. The twenty-four mile line to Woodville

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<sup>15</sup> Asylum (St. Francisville), January 29, 1825.

<sup>16</sup> Bayou Sara Ledger, September 13, 1843; Code of Police (West Feliciana Parish, 1824), pp. 14-15; General Statement of the Statistics of the State of Louisiana . . . ., p. 3; Louisiana Chronicle (St. Francisville and Bayou Sara), December 13, 1851; West Feliciana Parish, vol. II, p. 16.

<sup>17</sup> Louisianian (St. Francisville), June 8, 1838.

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was completed late in the decade and was of great service to the region though as late as 1849 Solon Robinson, who was a close observer, thought that the company had not yet learned<sup>19</sup> "the secret connected with low freights."

By 1830 West Feliciana had developed into one of the richest parishes in the state and together with the southwest counties of Mississippi formed one of the richest regions south of Mason and Dixon's line. Here was found one of the finest examples of the traditional old plantation South; large plantations, an intelligent and cultured aristocracy, a gentry of sturdy stock, an important entrepot in Bayou Sara - St. Francisville, and a great wealth based upon the cultivation of cotton and sugar cane. Great plantation homes at Rosedown, Ellerslie, Afton, Highland, The Cottage, Waverly and other plantations boasted a hospitality typical of the Old South - - one French traveller saying simply, "le voyageur est, presque chez tous, reçu avec regard."<sup>20</sup> Timothy Flint, who travelled in the section, described the planters of Louisiana of whom those of West Feliciana were typical, as follows, "The opulent planters have many amiable traits of character. They are high-minded and hospitable, in an eminent degree. I have sojourned much among them,

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<sup>18</sup> Dunbar Rowland, loc. cit., p. 991; True Democrat, February 24, 1917.

<sup>19</sup> American Agriculturist (New York), vol. VIII, pp. 117-118 (April, 1849).

<sup>20</sup> Claude C. Robin, Voyages dans l'Interieur de la Louisiana, de la Floride Occidentale, et dans les Isles de la Martinique et la Saint-Dominique, pendant les années 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 3 vols. (Paris, 1807), vol. I, pp. 242-243.

and have never experienced a more frank, dignified, and easy hospitality. . . . This simple and noble hospitality seems to be a general trait among these planters, for I have not yet called at a single house, where it has not been exercised towards me."<sup>21</sup> Life meant living, with a true sense of dignity, grace, and culture, during those romantic ante-bellum days in the parish of West Feliciana.

<sup>21</sup> Timothy Flint, Recollections of the Last Ten Years, Passed in Occasional Residences and Journeys in the Valley of the Mississippi, from Pittsburgh and the Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Florida to the Spanish Frontier; in A Series of Letters to the Rev. James Flint, of Salem, Massachusetts (Boston, 1826), p. 335.

### The Development of a Plantation

Bennet H. Barrow was the youngest son of William Barrow who had migrated from North Carolina to Louisiana during those years immediately preceding the close of the eighteenth century. His father settled Locust Grove plantation on the waters of the Little Bayou Sara about twelve miles northwest of St. Francisville in the heart of the rolling cotton lands of Nueva Feliciana.<sup>22</sup> At the boy's birth on October 21, 1811, the region was practically a wilderness on the frontier, though there was a scattering of plantations and settlements at strategic locations along the Mississippi. The territory was being rapidly settled, for the cotton planters of the eastern seaboard were beginning to realize that more cotton could be produced per acre in such western areas as the Felicianas than could be grown on the worn-out plantations of Virginia and the Carolinas. Within a decade all the best land was taken up and the golden era of the region began.

Young Bennet grew to manhood during this age of expansion. For the most part, his education was received at home under the guidance of private tutors; in 1823 he was taken to Wash-

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<sup>22</sup> Barrow Family Records, in the possession of Mrs. D. I. Norwood, Highland Plantation, Bains, Louisiana.

ington, D. C. for schooling, but his father's death forced the youth to return to his Louisiana Home. He grew up on the plantation, familiarized himself with the routine problems of plantation management, and before he was twenty his career as a planter began.

On December 16, 1830, when Barrow was but nineteen years of age, he was married to Emily Joor.<sup>23</sup> To this union were born eight children, six of whom lived to maturity. Mrs. Barrow died on August 22, 1845,<sup>24</sup> and the next year Barrow married her widowed sister, Mrs. Nancy Haile.<sup>25</sup> Two children were born of this marriage, so that at Barrow's death on May

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23 The Joor family was of Huguenot extraction, emigrating to Mississippi and Louisiana from South Carolina. The original "Jours" fled from France during an era of persecution and went first to Holland where they changed the spelling of the name to "Joor" or "Ioor." During the early years of the eighteenth century they came to South Carolina, where they rapidly acquired property in the colony and together with their relatives, the Delesselines and the Guinards, became typical of that French Huguenot aristocracy living in the proximity of Charleston. During the Revolution the family divided. Some remained loyal to the British government and received annuities during the course of the struggle; others, however, probably led by General Joseph Joor, sided with the colonies and fought with distinction during the whole of the War for Independence. Emily Joor was the daughter of Emily Richardson (descended from the Guinards and the Delesselines) and John Joor. Her father emigrated from Charleston to Woodville, Mississippi, during the early eighteen-hundreds, and became a planter. The bride was but fifteen years of age at the time of her marriage to Bennet H. Barrow. The above information was secured from the family records of the Joor family in the possession of Miss Harriet Joor, Lafayette, Louisiana, and Mrs. Bentley Nicholson, New Orleans, Louisiana; and from the manuscript "History of the Joor's," written by C. B. Joor in 1839.

24 See The Plantation Diary of Bennet H. Barrow, 1833-1846, August, 1845. Hereafter, citations to this diary will be made by date only.

25 Marriage Record, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, Vol. A, pp. 105-106. To be cited henceforth as Marriage Record.



29, 1854, he left a family of eight dependents.

From the time of his marriage until his death Barrow lived the life of a typical well-to-do West Feliciana planter. He bought and sold land, he grew cotton, he experimented with sugar cane, and he grew or produced most of the supplies required on a large plantation. He was constantly in debt, his indebtedness being greatly accentuated by the paying of numerous notes of his neighbors for whom he had signed as surety. He followed carefully, as did most planters, the political scene as it affected the interests of that aristocratic class. He was a sportsman, maintaining a racing stable and keeping packs of blooded dogs. He hunted deer and fox over the rolling hills near his home as well as the "black" who strayed from the shadow of the plantation quarters. He made numerous trips to New Orleans, to the races and to transact business with his factors. He had rather definite opinions on most topics of the day and in his Diary he gave vent to his feelings on numberless occasions. There is little that is strange or incomprehensible about his career as a Louisiana planter. He was typical of his age, his location, and his situation in life.

Locust Grove plantation was the home settlement of the Barrows in Louisiana. The plantation was settled sometime between 1795 and 1798 by his father, William Barrow, and the house erected prior to 1805. The father was a successful

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26 Inventory Record, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, Vol. A, pp. 135-143. To be cited henceforth as Inventory Record.

planter; he had constantly added to his landed estates and his slaves had multiplied through natural increase and by numerous purchases. He made additions to his home and from time to time constructed outbuildings, stables, and otherwise improved his holdings. On his death he left a large legacy to his six children. His land totaled 7160 arpents,<sup>27</sup> all but a few acres of which lay in Louisiana within a few miles of the original plantation. For purposes of administration the property was divided into six pieces and this made the settlement of the estate less troublesome than otherwise might have been the case. The total estate was inventoried at \$214,930.83, which included personal property and 348 slaves.<sup>28</sup> At the division of the estate, the "Home" place--"Locust Grove"--went to the youngest son, Bennet H. Barrow. The plantation totaled 1400 arpents of land and an appraisal at the time evaluated it at \$25,918.<sup>29</sup>

"Locust Grove" was the nucleus around which Bennet H. Barrow built his career as a planter of Old Louisiana. It was divided into three tracts: the "Holmes" tract consisting of 1000 arpents; the "Green" tract, of 240 arpents; and the "Bingeman" tract, of 160 arpents. He constantly bought land, and, though he was occasionally involved in a selling deal, his transactions tended to add to the sum total of his hold-

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<sup>27</sup> The arpent was an old French measure of land varying with the locality from .84 to 1.28 acres.

<sup>28</sup> Inventory Record, Vol. A, pp. 327-342.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., p. 329.

ings. Full payment in cash was rare; the usual procedure called for approximately one third at the time of purchase, and the balance scattered over a given period of years. Thus he trusted his cotton crops and the gradual rise in the price of land to take care of his payments. He was a shrewd buyer and land was usually purchased at a "fair" price if not at a "bargain."

His first real estate transaction was the sale in 1833 of 600 acres of land and 16 negroes to one Micajah Courtney for the sum of \$13,000, of which \$7,000 was paid in cash and a mortgage taken for the balance.<sup>30</sup> At the time, this was an excellent price for this particular tract, and Barrow later used the proceeds to buy land at advantageous prices. Two years afterwards, in a partnership transaction with his brother, William R. Barrow, he bought a block of 260 arpents for \$6,000, one half of which was paid in cash.<sup>31</sup> This purchase evidently was for speculative purposes, for, within four years, the land was sold to a Mr. M. E. Boyles for cash with a profit of \$1,400.<sup>32</sup> Early in 1836, negotiations were concluded whereby Barrow secured possession of 800 arpents of land known as the "Clark" place, the tract being purchased from Mrs. Elizabeth O'Connor, a widow living in Cincinnati, Ohio.<sup>33</sup> The price was \$4,000 with \$1,600 paid in cash at the

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30 Notarial Record, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, Vol. E, pp. 122-124. To be cited henceforth as Notarial Record.

31 Ibid., pp. 320-321.

32 Ibid., Vol. F, pp. 258-259.

33 Ibid., pp. 317-318.

time of purchase, the balance and interest to be paid within one year.

Two years later he acquired the "Gibson" place.<sup>34</sup> This block was under the same enclosure as the "Home" place and bounded Barrow's original inheritance on the South. It was a very desirable addition to his plantation, which it increased by 650 acres. The sale price was arranged at \$10,660, and Barrow agreed to pay \$2,500 in cash and the balance in two notes; the first of \$3,218 was due in twelve months and the second of \$4,942 in twenty-four months. Three slaves were included in this transaction.

Five months after the purchase of the "Gibson" place, the so-called "Swamp" tract was bought by Barrow and a kins-<sup>35</sup>man, Alexander Barrow, at the probate sale of Pamela Flower. This acquisition was a relatively small one, totaling \$3,000 for 150 arpents and though the land was at first held in partnership, by the time of Barrow's death in 1854 he had obtained title to the whole.

The largest single purchase made during Barrow's whole planting career was made in 1843 when he came into possession of approximately 1300 arpents of desirable land owned by his mother-in-law, Mrs. Emily Joor.<sup>36</sup> The property was divided into three parcels: the "Garnhart" tract, the "Robinson" tract,

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid., pp. 33-34.

<sup>35</sup> Inventory Record, Vol. G, pp. 135-143.

<sup>36</sup> Notarial Record, Vol. H, pp. 346-348; Inventory Record, Vol. G, pp. 135-143.

and the "Smith" tract. The purchase price agreed upon was \$22,550, of which \$19,050 was paid in cash, the balance being secured by a note which was subsequently paid.

This ended Barrow's expansion for some years and it was not until the middle of the 1840's that he bought additional property. About this time he acquired, at a sheriff's sale, made at the suit of Mrs. Mary Ann Farrar and husband V. N. Norsworthy, a small area which came to be known as the "Vidal"

<sup>37</sup> tract. In 1852 Barrow purchased his last block of real estate when he successfully negotiated for the "Kimplin" place, a tract of 401 arpents that bordered the "Clark" tract on the

<sup>38</sup> south. It is not recorded whether or not he paid \$1600 cash for the land, but it can be supposed that he was not forced to resort to notes, for at this time his finances were in an excellent condition. At the time of his death Barrow held title to approximately 5000 arpents of land, which was appraised at \$70,700, but this represented less than a half <sup>39</sup> portion of the estate which totaled \$157,251.75.

Barrow's real property was thus divided into six separate blocks: The "Home" place, including the "Gibson" property, contained approximately 2130 arpents; the "Clark" tract, 800 arpents; the "Swamp" tract, about 150 acres; the "Joer" place, including the "Garnhart," "Robinson," and "Smith" tracts, approximately 1300 arpents; the "Vidal"

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<sup>37</sup> Inventory Record, Vol. G, pp. 135-143.

<sup>38</sup> Notarial Record, Vol. K, pp. 341-348.

<sup>39</sup> See compilation of appraisals in the inventory of the estate, Inventory Record, Vol. G, pp. 135-143.

place, 174 acres; and the "Kimplin" place, 401 acres. The "Clark" tract and the "Kimplin" tract joined, so Barrow threw the two together into one plantation, thus giving him four units for his planting operations. For the convenience of the slave gangs each was cut up into fields, as for instance "Penrice," "Race Track," "Upper Cut," and others. The exact amount of land he had in cultivation at any one time during the years from 1830 to 1854 cannot be accurately determined, for he was constantly shifting operations by clearing land and by letting certain fields to lie fallow. In 1841, a survey revealed that some 800 acres at the "Home" place were in cultivation.<sup>40</sup> Much of the "Home" place was in rolling timber land, bordering Little Bayou Sara creek on the east side, but that portion in cultivation was divided between bottom land lying along the creek and upland which lay on the rolling hills. Rich was the land as the crops of cotton and corn indicate and constant efforts were made by rotation and other methods to increase its productivity.

## Highland and High Finance

The story of the plantation South's financial system has already been told; its weakness throughout the ante-bellum era was one of the causes of the downfall of the Confederacy in the 1860's. Barrow faced the problems common throughout the Southland and he attempted to work out his salvation in much the same manner as did his brother agriculturists in other sections of this plantation area. In many ways he was careless and on some occasions the disastrous results of his negligence cast an impenetrable gloom about his inherent optimism.<sup>41</sup> He managed not only his own financial affairs but, as was the common practice, also attended business conferences of "the family" and advised not only his relatives but his neighbors on the problems pursuant to a plantation regime.<sup>42</sup> His integrity was evidently respected in the parish for on at least one occasion he was named "Tutor" or guardian of a minor.<sup>43</sup> Land was a common extravagance and herein he was no exception. Money was constantly being borrowed from

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<sup>41</sup> May 20, Sept. 5, 1845.

<sup>42</sup> Aug. 16, 1842.

<sup>43</sup> Inventory Record, Vol. A, pp. 252-256.

banks and private individuals, and at the same time was being loaned, though in much smaller quantities. Inasmuch as neighbors were also in need of financial assistance, it was necessary to act as surety for their notes on numerous occasions. And throughout the whole of his career, except when the price of cotton rose above the general price level, there was a constant protest against the conditions of the time, the antics of the politicians, or the insidious work of the British market.

It was not long after Barrow assumed the management of "Locust Grove" plantation that he began to give vent to his feelings. By 1838 he noted that "evry body [was] hard run for money" and that it was "all most impossible to raise one dollars. and that in shin plasters."<sup>44</sup> Times did not improve in 1839 and by fall he had begun to place part of the blame on Andrew Jackson and his financial policy.<sup>45</sup> The destruction of the United States Bank, he wrote, had caused a distribution of the revenue among the state banks and this resulted in a wave of speculation, not so much on the part of the people as on the part of the bankers. The next year, as he put it, "The times continue to get worse," though he now began to lay the cause to the "unsettled affairs of Euorope."<sup>46</sup> A low mark was reached in 1842 when he wrote that money was as "high as 4 pr  $\frac{ct}{-}$  a month" and "scarce at

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<sup>44</sup> Jan. 2, 14, Mar. 3, 1838.

<sup>45</sup> Nov. 6, 1839.

<sup>46</sup> Feb. 22, Mar. 23, Oct. 23, 1840.



that," and admitted that the situation was "critical." But now he not only blamed the politicians and Europe but shouldered much of the responsibility himself, when he recorded that he had been too generous in "assisting What I thought my friends."<sup>47</sup> Evidently 1843 brought some relief, for he had little to say regarding finance except that he was unable to hold his cotton until prices went higher.<sup>48</sup> By 1844, times were much improved, conditions were better than they "have been in 4 or 5 years."<sup>49</sup> On the first of January, 1845, he wrote that "The prospects of the cotton planter seems quite gloomy from the immense am<sup>t</sup> of cotton made,"<sup>29</sup> but by the middle of the year it was evident that a better day was at hand, as much good news was coming from Europe.<sup>50</sup> The apprehension of war, in 1846, was a mirage to be feared but otherwise the planters were in better circumstances than they had been for many years, and Barrow was hopeful for the future.<sup>51</sup>

Plantation management involved more than the mere production of cotton. The average planter was the business manager of a large enterprise and not the least of his problems was the sale of his staple crop, whether it was indigo, rice, cotton, tobacco, or sugar. As was customary through the South, the plantation of Bennet H. Barrow sold its staple through a factor. During the period under discussion, Barrow

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47 Jan. 1, Feb. 19, Mar. 6, 29, May 13, Oct. 4, 1842.

48 Nov. 30, 1843.

49 Jan. 27, 1844.

50 Jan. 1, July 19, 1845.

51 Jan. 1, 1846.

was much concerned with the relations with his agents in New Orleans. From them supplies were secured; from them he negotiated loans, and to them each year went the cotton production of his acres. And from time to time, he complained of the prices paid for his cotton, of the charges placed on the articles secured, and on the general success of his business with particular houses.

As early as 1836 he complained of "very bad sale(s)," and continued to say that inasmuch as he had changed merchants, better luck had been anticipated.<sup>52</sup> Within two years, owing to unsatisfactory transactions during 1837 and 1838, he again changed merchants.<sup>53</sup> A cotton buyer named Warfield had that year launched his own company under the firm name of Finley and Company, and Barrow, after apparently investigating the new house,<sup>54</sup> sent them his cotton. He remained with Finley and Company only one year.<sup>55</sup> His accounts with them during 1839 show that in October he paid them a little over \$5,000 for supplies bought.<sup>56</sup> Despite the fact that from this month on he no longer allowed them to handle his cotton, he continued to do business with them, paying in July, 1840, an account of \$3,275,<sup>57</sup> though this may have been a balance due from previous years. On October 5, 1839, he changed to A. Ledoux and Company

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52 Sept. 28, 1836.

53 Oct. 6, 1838.

54 Oct. 31, 1838.

55 Oct. 5, 1839.

56 Barrow Accounts, Appendix IV, hereafter cited as Barrow Accts.

57 Ibid.

as they were reputed to be "the best salesman in the city."<sup>58</sup>  
 He was not disappointed, for, within three weeks he had received the account of their first sales, which brought three and one-fourth cents a pound more than Finley and Company had been getting. But his satisfaction was evidently accentuated by the fact that Ledoux promised to have his name stamped in full on the bales, whereas his old factors had<sup>59</sup> merely stamped them B. H. B.

Ledoux continued to handle his business until 1846, and the relations between factor and planter appear to have been pleasant. The company advanced him money, carried his account, advised him from time to time on the fluctuations of the British market, and it is certain that they were very liberal in carrying his account on more than one occasion.<sup>60</sup> But by 1845 distrust, or at least curiosity, got the best of him, for in October he sent 5 bales to New Orleans through another planter "to test my Merchants," as he phrased it.<sup>61</sup>

There is no way of checking accurately the prices which Barrow received for his cotton prior to 1838. In 1833, he recorded that cotton was selling in New Orleans at from sixteen to eighteen cents, but whether or not he sold his product at these figures cannot be determined.<sup>62</sup> The price, according

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<sup>58</sup> Oct. 5, 1839. See also for the above commission merchants the New Orleans Price-Current and Commercial Intelligence, passim.

<sup>59</sup> Oct. 26, 1839.

<sup>60</sup> Oct. 12, 30, 1842; Nov. 5, 1843; Barrow Accts.

<sup>61</sup> Oct. 18, 1845.

<sup>62</sup> Oct. 9, 1833.

to his entry of March 31, 1836, was between fifteen and twenty-two cents a pound, but it is again impossible to discover at what prices his sales were made.<sup>63</sup> The crop of 1838 was sold at an average price of about twelve and one-half cents a pound,<sup>64</sup> although some sold as high as thirteen and one-fourth cents.<sup>65</sup> In 1839 and 1840, prices remained about the same, the average the first mentioned year being about nine and three-quarter cents.<sup>66</sup> The first four years of the 1840's saw his average sales price between four and one-half and ten cents, the high level being reached in 1841 and the low figure in 1844.<sup>67</sup> During 1845, the price remained about the same level, ranging from six and five-eighths to nine and one-eighth cents a pound.<sup>68</sup>

It is also impossible to check accurately the yearly sales during the period between 1833 and 1846. Barrow's accounts did not always agree with the entries in his Diary, and the totals in some instances did not conform to the entries listed. It is possible, then, to cite only his figures. From 1833 to 1836 no estimate can be given, but beginning in the latter year he recorded that for a total of over 400 bales he received the sum of \$24,839.58.<sup>69</sup> The next year his crop dropped off slightly, amounting to \$22,705.06.<sup>70</sup> The crop of 1836 proved a high

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<sup>63</sup> Mar. 31, 1836; Jan. 4, 1837.

<sup>64</sup> Feb. 6, 1839.

<sup>65</sup> Nov. 27, 1838.

<sup>66</sup> Appendix VI, 1839-1840.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, 1841-1844.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, 1845.

<sup>69</sup> Jan. 30, 1837.

<sup>70</sup> Feb. 6, 1839.

year, for sales declined steadily until 1845, after which followed a period of gain. In 1839 his sales totaled \$19,722.42,<sup>71</sup> in 1840, \$17,565.16,<sup>72</sup> and in 1841 about the same figure, \$17,014.77.<sup>73</sup> But prices as well as production<sup>74</sup> decreased, and, the next year, only \$9,819.92 was received. His crop of 1843 would have yielded somewhat over \$12,000 but for the loss of 100 bales of cotton by fire, a total of nearly \$5,000, which brought his receipts down to \$7,274.16.<sup>75</sup> In 1844, only \$8,771.65 was received,<sup>76</sup> but an upward trend came<sup>77</sup> the next year when he marketed a crop for \$10,176.49.

Barrow was usually in debt, despite the fact that he raised large crops of cotton and apparently ran his plantation with a great deal of foresight concerning the production of the supplies needed for the care and well-being of his slaves. As a matter of fact the evidence of his files and the parish records do not reveal that he was ever entirely out of debt from 1834 until his death twenty years later, though by 1854 he had terminated the most sizable obligations.<sup>78</sup> The constant adding of real estate to his domain was the most important item, but the endorsement of neighbors' notes caused distressing financial reverses. Apparently his credit with banks and private individuals was excellent.

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<sup>71</sup> Apr. 12, 1840; Appendix VI, 1839.

<sup>72</sup> Appendix VI, 1840.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*, 1841.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, 1842.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, 1843.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*, 1844.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, 1845.

<sup>78</sup> Inventory Record, Vol. G, pp. 140-143.

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Only once was an endorsement protested, and his failure to secure certain loans was, from the evidence available, not generally due to the nature of the risk. The Sheriff's Transfer Book, of the parish records, does not reveal that he ever failed to pay off mortgages when due or to make successful arrangements to have loans extended.<sup>80</sup>

Barrow's plantation operations and his purchases of land led to financial dealings of a rather extensive nature. He usually borrowed from banks, securing his loans principally from the Bank of Louisiana through its branch at St. Francisville, the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company, and the Citizens Bank, the last two of New Orleans. Occasionally paper was secured from the Carrollton Bank or the Union Bank, but on the whole he preferred to deal with institutions large enough to carry his loans for long periods. From the sources available it is not possible to give the exact amount of his borrowings, but a rather modest estimate for the period from 1834 to 1846 would indicate that he secured advances of more than \$60,000, part of which, no doubt, was in the refinancing of old loans.<sup>81</sup> Ordinarily he gave mortgages on one or more of his plantations, together with their slaves and equipment.<sup>82</sup>

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79 Jan. 14, 1840.

80 The Sheriff's Transfer Record, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, Vols. I and II, do not reveal that Barrow ever failed to pay his mortgages when due or to make arrangements to extend the loan.

81 Barrow Accts., passim; Mortgage Record, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, Vol. III, pp. 209-211; Vol. V, pp. 157-159, 205-207; Vol. VII, pp. 1-4; Jan. 1, 1845. To be cited henceforth as Mortgage Record.

82 Mortgage Record, Vol. V, Ibid., Vol. VII, Ibid., Vol. VIII, pp. 496-499.

During the early years of his planting experience he borrowed money in quantities just sufficient to handle his immediate needs, but in 1845, he funded his total indebtedness and secured a loan of \$24,000 from the Bank of Louisiana.<sup>83</sup> Prior to this time, he had attempted to secure large loans from Europe or from Kentucky banks, but, for reasons unknown, they failed to materialize.<sup>84</sup> With the exception of \$4,000, secured by a new loan, the note of 1845 was repaid the following year.<sup>85</sup> Thereafter Barrow borrowed in amounts sufficient to handle all his obligations. In 1849, \$25,000 was secured from his New Orleans factor, A. Ledoux and Company, payable within twelve months. This amount was refinanced the next year through A. Miltenberger and Company of New Orleans.<sup>86</sup> By 1851, however, Kelly Conyngham and Company were holding his notes for \$34,000.<sup>87</sup>

Not all of Barrow's financial dealings were with banks or banking companies. Some small loans were secured from time to time from merchants or neighbors who were more fortunate than he in having cash on hand.<sup>88</sup> Perhaps his most interesting transaction was with Daniel Turnbull of Rosedown plantation, who was a brother-in-law and one of the wealthiest planters of the region. In 1837, \$7,000 was borrowed by

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<sup>83</sup> Jan. 1, 1845.

<sup>84</sup> Apr. 16, May 30, Dec. 16, 1843; Feb. 6, 1844.

<sup>85</sup> Mortgage Record, Vol. VII, pp. 1-4.

<sup>86</sup> Mortgage Record, Vol. VII, pp. 506-511; Notarial Record, Vol. K, pp. 18-20.

<sup>87</sup> Mortgage Record, Vol. VIII, pp. 24-27.

<sup>88</sup> Mortgage Record, Vol. III, p. 611; Barrow Accts., passim.

Barrow, who wished to re-lan at least part of the total to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Joor. Three years later, Turnbull, without warning, owing no doubt to the stringency of the times, called for his money. Barrow had been "very unfortunate" that year and was at the time "pressed for money." He could not account for his creditor's action and noted in his Diary that his conduct was "most illiberal to make the least of it," and that, as far as he was concerned, their neighborly relations were at an end.<sup>89</sup> The loan could not be settled that year, but in March, 1841, it was paid in full,<sup>90</sup> to the amount of \$7,980, which included unpaid interest. Several months later he made a note in his Diary concerning his unneighborly neighbor: "Saw M<sup>r</sup> Turnbull yesterday the only Independent man to be met - Fat & pockets full of money."<sup>91</sup>

Barrow's financial negotiations had a credit side as well as a debit. During the years from 1837 to 1846, he loaned money to the approximate total of \$25,000. All of these loans were to members of his family. In 1837, he loaned his father-in-law between \$600 and \$1,000.<sup>92</sup> Within a year he recorded that his mother-in-law owed him over \$13,000, a debt which he collected in 1843 by taking title to a plantation.<sup>93</sup> He loaned his brother-in-law, John Mayrant, var-

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<sup>89</sup> Mar. 11, 1840.

<sup>90</sup> Barrow Accts.

<sup>91</sup> Oct. 5, 1842.

<sup>92</sup> Barrow Accts.

<sup>93</sup> Oct. 29, 1838; Feb. 24, 1843.



ious amounts during the period of the late 1830's, Mayrant simply drawing off Barrow's account.<sup>94</sup> To a cousin, Albert G. Barrow, he loaned \$3,000 in 1841, taking as security 340 acres of land and 12 slaves.<sup>95</sup> After his second marriage in 1846, he loaned \$6,000 to his wife, who had, by her first husband, William Haile, a rather large separate estate. The same year he loaned Peter H. Joor, nearly half as much. It is interesting to note that Barrow borrowed the money to make these loans.<sup>96</sup>

It was Barrow's endorsing of his neighbors' notes, together with his own borrowings, that caused many of his monetary misfortunes. Even when times were hard and when his creditors were pressing, he came to the aid of friends who needed assistance. Sometime prior to August, 1839, he acted as security for one J. Desmont, an English physician who settled near St. Francisville and who gained his confidence by his "uncommonly gentlemanly manners - modesty and chastity." In that month Desmont left for parts unknown leaving Barrow to pay between \$10,000 and \$16,000.<sup>97</sup> In November, of the same year, it was discovered that Desmont had forged Barrow's name as acceptor on a note for \$200, which, after some persuasion by his relatives, Barrow paid in December.<sup>98</sup> The incident made a deep impression on the young planter, for in

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Oct. 24, 1838.

Mortgage Record, Vol. V, pp. 297-299.

Jan. 24, 1846.

Aug. 20, 1839.

Nov. 9, Dec. 19, 1839; Barrow Accts.

January, 1840, he remarked in his Diary, "This crop would have paid evry Dollar I owed - but owing to my Endorsing - Will take two more crops to clear me of Debt - never Endorse at any rate, for a man Extravagant & careless in buisness."<sup>99</sup>

But he was not through with the Britain, for in February, Desmont returned "contrary to all expectations."<sup>100</sup> He soon called on the Master of Highland and satisfied him "in a great measure" of the reasons for his absence, but was not completely convincing of his honesty, for Barrow remarked, "I think him a rascal."<sup>101</sup> In March, much to his chagrin, it was discovered Finley and Company of New Orleans had accepted a draft drawn by Desmont with Barrow's name attached;<sup>102</sup> whereupon Barrow immediately called on the forger and ordered him to leave the country, a demand which was obeyed without delay.<sup>103</sup> There is no later evidence to show that Desmont ever paid Barrow the debt.

Ignoring this disastrous incident, the philanthropic Mr. Barrow continued to endorse and apparently with little discretion. In March, 1840, he was forced to pay \$1,350 as a consequence of endorsing for Morris Boyles, his stable trainer.<sup>104</sup> The following February he paid a \$3,000 note for George Joor,<sup>105</sup> a relative of his wife. It is not known

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<sup>99</sup> Jan. 21, 1840.

<sup>100</sup> Feb. 4, 1840.

<sup>101</sup> Feb. 18, Mar. 11, 1840.

<sup>102</sup> Mar. 14, 1840.

<sup>103</sup> Mar. 14, 17, 1840.

<sup>104</sup> Barrow Accts.

<sup>105</sup> Mar. 12, 1842; Barrow Accts.

whether or not he was ever reimbursed in cash, but in May, 1842, he accepted four negroes from Joor, for whom he allowed \$2,000.<sup>106</sup> In April of the same year he had an interesting experience with one Skillman. He endorsed Skillman's note, but soon found that it was not a new note but a renewal of an old one, whereupon he caused his name to be removed.<sup>107</sup> During the years 1842 and 1844, he endorsed for F. Routh, a neighboring planter, a commitment which cost him \$1,300.<sup>108</sup> Another of his neighboring planters, a Mr. Ratliff, secured his name about the same time and in 1845, he paid the Canal Bank \$1,200.<sup>109</sup> However, his propensity for endorsing did not reach its climax until six years later, at which time he certified his largest note, one for \$40,000, issued by the Bank of Louisiana in favor of his kinsman, Bennet J. Barrow. That this relative enjoyed his complete confidence is evidenced by the fact that the next year Barrow gave him power of attorney, a confidence that was apparently justified, for, so far as the records show, the paper was paid without difficulty.<sup>110</sup>

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106 May 30, 1842.

107 Apr. 10, 1842.

108 Barrow Accts.

109 Barrow Accts.

110 Notarial Record, Vol. K, p. 423.

### Routine and Production

The operation of a large plantation presented problems not dissimilar to those facing the operator of a large manufacturing establishment. The production of staple crops was a major objective but there were a multiplicity of other tasks to be performed during a twelve month period. To maintain the efficiency of the establishment at high level required superior executive ability. Land had to be cleared to increase the acreage or to make up for land that was to lie fallow; the well-being of the slave population included such tasks as spinning, weaving and basket-making, repairing of quarters, and the production of foodstuffs. The problem of management of 150 black folk<sup>111</sup> and the direction of three score field workers necessitated careful planning over the course of the entire season. In the solution of these problems Barrow was perhaps slightly more efficient than the average planter of his region. Little time was lost by the workers during the course of the year, for the completion of one task saw another immediately begun. When weather conditions prevented field work, spinning and weaving, sawing of lumber, repair of machinery

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<sup>111</sup> For the complete list of Barrow slaves see Appendix II.

and buildings were attended to. A smooth, well-ordered machine was the goal of every planter but it was an ambition which only a few ever achieved.

The fortnight following Yuletide saw the inauguration of the year's operations. During January and February field hands were busy with plowing.<sup>112</sup> In the case of old cotton land the middles were split with single plows, new ridges were being thrown up which were subsequently leveled with harrows. If the land had previously been sown to oats, corn or truck crops, moldboarded plows were used, an operation which was followed by leveling and clod-breaking until the soil was ready for seeding. In February or March the cotton was planted, apparently by hand, as there is no conclusive evidence that machinery was ever used. The task was usually completed by the first of April unless weather conditions caused delay. Occasionally frost or wet weather necessitated a replanting but this additional labor was ordinarily completed by the middle of the month.<sup>113</sup> Once the plantings had sprouted and had appeared above ground, cultivation began, and until the middle of August the hands tended the growing cotton, corn, or other crops. The cotton was first scraped or barred off with a scraper, a horse-drawn tool, which brought the soft dark earth away from the cotton plants. The ridges were leveled and at the same time the weeds were killed. This job completed, the cotton was moulded, the soil being moved again toward the plants.

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<sup>112</sup> For typical entries see Jan. 21, 1839 and Mar. 24, 1841.

<sup>113</sup> Apr. 6, 1840; Mar. 17, 1843.

The hoe gangs made their onslaught on the remaining weeds and at the same operation thinned the cotton to the proper distances.<sup>114</sup> The crop was alternately scraped, moulded,<sup>115</sup> and hoed until laying-by time came during August.

<sup>116</sup>With August began the harvest. Fodder was pulled from the standing corn, hay was cut and cured, and the long and constant drive to get the cotton out of the fields began. As cotton was the staple in West Feliciana other crops had to await rainy days or odd times for their harvesting. The maximum picking strength was thrown into the field, and as soon as the large white bags began to come in the trashing, ginning, and pressing began. The picking season saw two fairly well defined gangs, disciplined and organized for their particular tasks, working with a smoothness that came only from years of practice and repetition. In September began the hauling of the cotton from the plantation to the landing places along the shores of the Mississippi. Ratliff's Landing, only a few miles distant, was the usual shipping point though at times cotton was shipped from Bayou Sara or St. Francisville. Rain usually appeared at this time to plague the planter and Barrow often complained, on one occasion writing, "Showery appearance of bad weather<sup>117</sup> invariably the Case When I com'ce hauling Cotton." The

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<sup>114</sup> Apr. 30, 1840.

<sup>115</sup> A common entry, "Finished hoeing . . . Finished scraping," Aug. 25, 1838.

<sup>116</sup> Aug. 18, 1843.

<sup>117</sup> Oct. 23, 1837.

following year he lost considerable time from picking to work "the ford at Little Creek in G<sup>ns</sup> field," complaining that, "never com'ence hauling Cotten that it did'ent rain." <sup>118</sup>

The harvesting season lasted until the end of the year and sometimes, if weather conditions were unfavorable, over into January.

The above recital does not complete the routine on Highland plantation. Between cotton operations, during inclement weather and at odd times, the master found many tasks for the slaves. The winter months immediately preceding the spring drive of planting, were occupied with cutting wood from the swamps, floating it out as far as possible and then hauling or dragging it to the wood lot near the slave quarters. <sup>119</sup> Here much of it was cut for heating purposes. Some was sawed into lumber for great was the need thereof. From time to time new buildings were added to the little settlement around the "Big House": a new jail, a new hospital, or a new dance hall; and various out-buildings and slave cabins were repeatedly in need of repair. New floors for the gin and press houses were often necessary and scaffolding was placed in position to hold the future cotton <sup>120</sup> pickings. The chimneys, both of the plantation home and the slave quarters, were checked each year and frequently re-

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<sup>118</sup> Sept. 22, 1838.

<sup>119</sup> Aug. 15, 1844.

<sup>120</sup> July 2, 1840; Dec. 8, 1841; June 14, Aug. 15, 19, 1844

121  
 quired repairs. Shingles were made from sawed chunks of cypress and posts and rails were split and sharpened for use around the stock lots or truck gardens. Machinery was examined at the end of each season and gins, presses, corn shellers, plows, hoes, and hooks were put in good condition. 122

Highland made a definite attempt at plantation self-sufficiency. The making of thread from the soft white product of the fields was a constant task for the spinners, who were assisted by pregnant women and those "sucklers" not yet 123  
 ready for the fields. The weaving of cloth and the making of garments of many sizes and varieties continued throughout the entire year. To provide sustenance for the plantation, corn was planted and cultivated, potatoes were raised in large quantities, peas and pumpkins offered provender for both man and beast, and during the summer many a black shed tears of anguish as he hoed down the watermelon row. The small field of sugar cane was raised for domestic sweetening and cane never replaced cotton as the Barrow staple during the period under discussion. Hogs, cattle, sheep, horses and mules, and poultry received their share of attention though usually there were certain slaves delegated to these specific tasks. In the routine of the year's work there was little leisure time on Highland and when holidays were given they came as a reward for work faithfully accomplished and

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121 July 9, 1839; June 18, 1840.

122 Aug. 2, 1844.

123 Apr. 12, 1837; Oct. 18, 1838; June 18, 1840.



not because the slaves had worked themselves out of a job. That time never came.

Barrow's money crop was cotton. During the interim from 1833 to 1846 he depended upon the cotton boll for his financial security. Late in the 1840's he began to experiment with sugar cane with a view of eventually changing to its production but his acreage did not become large for his death in 1854 prevented its further development. From the records available it is impossible to determine exactly the average number of acres planted in cotton each season. Barrow made only scattered references to his total acreage. By the middle of February, 1840, he had 350 acres ploughed and before the beginning of the summer he had increased<sup>124</sup> this amount to 600 acres. On June 15, 1843, he noted that he had 450 acres of "good" cotton and 150 acres of<sup>125</sup> young "very inferior" cotton. On April 3, 1845, he recorded that he had 590 acres planted and on the following<sup>126</sup> day prophesied that he would "make 755 Acres in cotton." With this scanty information it is dangerous to attempt to strike a general average over the period, but the available figures seem to indicate that he usually planted or attempted to plant, the season permitting, at least 600 acres of the staple. It is also difficult to determine whether or not he usually purchased his seed. In only two years did he

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<sup>124</sup> Feb. 22, July 2, 1840.

<sup>125</sup> June 15, 1843.

<sup>126</sup> Apr. 3, 4, 1845.

record such purchases. The first mention was made in 1841 but it is not safe to assume that all the seed was bought, for in 1842 he spent almost twice as much for this item as  
127  
in the preceding year.

The making of a good crop gave much satisfaction to the planter. Appreciatory comments of visitors or neighbors concerning his crop apparently made a favorable impression for many of their remarks were copied into his Diary. On June 12, 1842, he was visited by two friends, and Barrow recorded, "they have seen no crop at all to compare with it, from half Leg to waist high    balled & formed as well as can be for the season    several grown Bolcs on a stalk. the  
128  
1st planting." The planter had a right to be prideful of his broad acres, his well-disciplined gangs, his good stand of cotton or yield of bolls.

Making a cotton crop caused the planter much concern. Pests of many varieties plagued him; the season was frequently in conspiracy against the production of large quantities of the staple; and diseases of one type or another disturbed his equanimity. In May of 1838, Barrow wrote that the cut-  
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worms and bugs had materially injured his cotton    but evidently he overestimated the damage for his yield increased by half a hundred bales over the previous twelve months. The second year following he recorded in his Diary: "never

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127 Apr. 1, 1841; Barrow Accts.

128 June 12, 1842.

129 May 31, 1838.

saw worse looking cotton. wisted trash beat in it & stained cotton blown so as not able to trace the rows, worms Eating all the Leaves off." And at the same time he stated that from points south came reports to the effect that the "Catapeller has destroyed some crops & in the course of two nights."<sup>130</sup> But no such plague was in evidence at Highland.<sup>131</sup> There the year's production was better than 500 bales. The following year the rot attacked his stand. He wrote that he "never saw cotten rot as it has done in the ten days past, similar to rot 15 year ago. should it prove to be the same,<sup>132</sup> Can't imagine What we will do." But again he was too pessimistic; in that year his production again topped the five hundred bale mark.<sup>133</sup> In 1842 the rot visited him again, this time allied with "a small bug," and Barrow "never [saw] such destruction from rot in cotten."<sup>134</sup> This year his melancholy predictions were justified for production decreased more than 100 bales.<sup>135</sup> Apparently he was not troubled again until 1844 when lice, worms, and grasshoppers invaded the plantation and "Literally ruined" 300 acres of the staple.<sup>136</sup> Barrow was usually pessimistic about the depredations of weather and insects and his notations must be carefully checked with the harvest to determine the actual extent of

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<sup>130</sup> Sept. 4, 1840.

<sup>131</sup> Appendix VI, 1840.

<sup>132</sup> Sept. 8, 1841.

<sup>133</sup> Appendix VI, 1841.

<sup>134</sup> Sept. 22, 1842.

<sup>135</sup> Appendix VI, 1842.

<sup>136</sup> May 31, 1844.

damage.

The available records of Highland plantation give but scanty information as to the total cotton production for the years from 1833 to 1846. One must depend entirely upon Barrow's own estimations and upon the record of his cotton sales. His figures do not always agree and undoubtedly are at least partially incorrect. The first record of total production was entered on January 30, 1837, when he indicated, "Made in 1836 some few Bales over 400."<sup>137</sup> The following year, on November 27, he estimated that about 455 bales would be made but his sales by February first saw an addition of 25 bales to this estimate.<sup>138</sup> In 1839, according to his figures, the total sales of 530 bales were made,<sup>139</sup> but, perhaps owing to the pest above recorded, that figure decreased by two score the following year.<sup>140</sup> In 1841 production reached was 504 bales.<sup>141</sup> Barrow's high year was 1842. In the accounts for that year he recorded that production was but 411 bales,<sup>142</sup> but on April 7, 1843, he stated, "Six hundred and Ten Bales cotton Pressed in No. . . . & three Epidimis on the plantation."<sup>143</sup> The following year was his nadir for, owing to a disastrous fire which consumed 125 bales, his marketings totaled only 247 pressings.<sup>144</sup> In 1844 he pro-

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<sup>137</sup> Jan. 30, 1837.

<sup>138</sup> Nov. 27, 1838.

<sup>139</sup> Appendix VI, 1839.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid., 1840.

<sup>141</sup> Ibid., 1841.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid., 1842.

<sup>143</sup> Apr. 7, 1843.

<sup>144</sup> Appendix VI, 1843.

duced 423 bales,<sup>145</sup> a total which decreased by 60 bales the  
<sup>146</sup> following year.

On one occasion Barrow reported that his hands were  
 "determined to make a crop, if work can do it." He contin-  
 ued, "never saw hands Work as Well, have never said a word  
 to them - feeling an interest, they look a head & see What  
 is to be done."<sup>147</sup> These were undoubtedly unusual occurrences.  
 Sometimes the planter organized his negroes into two gangs and  
 developed a competitive spirit between them; he laid wagers  
 with certain hands that they would be beaten in total cotton  
 pickings during the course of a week, a procedure which  
 usually succeeded in producing the desired result.<sup>148</sup> On  
 the whole, during the course of the thirteen year period,  
 the Highland workers appear to have performed perhaps a  
 little above the general mean for West Feliciana. The pro-  
 duction of his cotton in relation to the total number of  
 his field hands cannot be definitely estimated for lack of  
 accurate information as to the number of field hands used  
 from year to year. In 1836 he had from 50 to 61 workers in  
 the field.<sup>149</sup> Three years later the average total was about  
<sup>150</sup> the same, and the number evidently did not increase con-  
 siderably during the years which followed, although by mus-

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<sup>145</sup> Appendix VI, 1844.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid., 1845.

<sup>147</sup> Apr. 16, 1840.

<sup>148</sup> On Oct. 1, 1838, he wrote, "Bet Levi \$10 that Betsy &  
 Lize would Each beat him 100 lb<sup>s</sup>, of Cotten this weake."

<sup>149</sup> Aug. 15, 22, 1836.

<sup>150</sup> Sept. 26, 1839.

tering all forces as many as 70 pickers could be put in the field at one time. In 1839 the production was about 8 bales for each field hand, a figure which was subsequently increased<sup>151</sup> with good cotton years to 10 bales.

Cotton picking time was a rush season on every plantation. It was highly desirable that the bolls be emptied of their wealth as soon as possible for adverse weather conditions lowered the quality of the product. Barrow usually began picking about the middle of August and continued until the crop was out of the field sometime during the late fall or early winter. Occasionally the season delayed him so that the fields were not cleared until early in the following year. The average daily pickings of the negroes varied greatly from time to time. During the season Barrow comments often on this subject, and on most occasions he is satisfied with the result of the day's work. At times reports came from neighboring planters of their total pickings but with only one exception, his workers had higher averages than<sup>152</sup> those of nearby planters. One day in November, 1838, Barrow recorded that the average was  $364\frac{1}{2}$  pounds for 42<sup>153</sup> pickers. Four years later, on September 10, 1842, 69 pickers averaged 205 pounds, though it must be explained that there were 11 children in the gang and that the slaves as a whole were in a weakened condition due to a recent epi-

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<sup>151</sup> Jan. 29, 1839.

<sup>152</sup> Oct. 28, 1838.

<sup>153</sup> See Appendix V.

demis of scarlet fever and measles.<sup>154</sup> That his pickers were considered above the average for the region is evidenced by the fact that in 1844 a neighboring overseer offered to wager him \$700 that his 69 pickers could not pick 16,000 pounds of cotton in a day, but though the wager was accepted by Barrow the challenger decided to withdraw.<sup>155</sup> There were times, however, when the hands did not pick to suit the master and whippings followed.<sup>156</sup> On more than one occasion some black attempted to add to his weights by placing stones in his bags, attempts which if detected, usually resulted in whippings or in jail sentences.<sup>157</sup>

Early in his planting career Barrow began to experiment with sugar cane. During this period when the product was not common in the Florida parishes he raised a "patch of cane" and apparently observed its reaction to certain weather conditions and to particular methods of cultivation. He had a small acreage as early as 1838, the product of which was used for home consumption.<sup>158</sup> It was not until 1843, however, that his interest gained proportions worthy of mention. The last of January he noted, "planted 4 acres in sugar cane. 'Creole & Ribbon.'" <sup>159</sup> Within a month he began to speculate in sugar futures, a financial risk which ended to his advantage.<sup>160</sup> His crop of 1843 was harvested successfully though

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154 Ibid.

155 Sept. 1, 4, 1844.

156 Sept. 1, Oct. 12, 1838.

157 Aug. 20, 1842.

158 Nov. 9, 1838.

159 Jan. 24, 1843.

160 Mar. 17, 28, 1843.

he worried considerably "f r fear of ice," and on November 12, he "started all hands to cutting sugar cane." The following year he continued his experimentation, but did not attempt to change his staple from cotton to sugar until the early 1850's. At the beginning of that decade he began the change, but his death in 1854 came before the complete transition had been accomplished.

Highland plantation, during the period from 1833 to 1846 made a definite attempt at self-sufficiency. In addition to cotton and sugar cane other products of a less marketable value were produced at Highland, for the task of feeding nearly 200 slaves and large numbers of livestock was a sizable one. Corn was a much needed source of food for both man and beast. The yearly acreage varied with the needs of the plantation. In 1840 nearly 200 acres were devoted to the product, while by 1845 it was necessary to plant 300

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161 Nov. 12, 1843.

162 May 27, July 22, Nov. 1, 1844.

163 Barrow's work was carried on by his two eldest sons, John and James J. Barrow. Upon his death they took over the management of the plantation and within a few years became among the largest sugar producers in the parish. Their crop of 1857-58 totaled 430 hogsheads. Two years later the crop remained about the same figure, but in 1861-62 James J. Barrow, who had taken over the management of Highland plantation, produced 650 hogsheads. At this time he was the second largest sugar producer in West Feliciana, being exceeded only by William R. Barrow, an uncle. During this period vacuum pans were used, but by 1870 he had made many improvements. He had a brick and slate roof sugar house and refined his sugar by steam train, vacuum, and centrifugal methods. See, P. A. Champomier, Statement of the Sugar Crop made in Louisiana in 1857-58, p. 3; Ibid., (1859-60), p. 3; Ibid., (1861-62), p. 3; L. Bouchereau, Statement of the Sugar and Rice Crops made in Louisiana in 1870-71, p. 5.

164 Mar. 4, 1840.



<sup>165</sup>  
 acres. Corn usually turned out well on Highland. In  
<sup>166</sup>  
 1835 the average yield was 52 bushels to the acre, in  
<sup>167</sup>  
 1842 300 barrels were produced on 6 choice acres, and  
 though these yields were apparently above the average the  
 supply was frequently insufficient for the needs of the  
<sup>168</sup>  
 planter. As a by-product of the corn growing season fod-  
 der was pulled for use as "hay," and though Barrow became  
 disgusted with the difficulty of saving fodder and swore  
 on at least one occasion that he would not attempt its  
<sup>169</sup>  
 curing if he had other work to do, he was still produc-  
<sup>170</sup>  
 ing a great deal by 1845. Oats was raised in large quan-  
<sup>171</sup>  
 tities for his horses, mules, cattle, and sheep. Peas  
 were cultivated for they not only were used by livestock but  
 also came as a welcome change in slave diet during the summer  
<sup>172</sup>  
 and early fall.

The production of garden truck and vegetables for use  
 by the inhabitants of the "Big House" as well as by the slave  
 population was given considerable attention on the Barrow  
 homestead. Potatoes, of the Irish and sweet varieties, were  
 planted in large quantities, the total acreage ordinarily  
<sup>173</sup>  
 averaging slightly under 10 acres. Some were planted

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165 Apr. 4, 1845.

166 June 29, 1836.

167 Nov. 14, 1842.

168 Sept. 22, 1836; Nov. 15, 1841; Sept. 12, Dec. 5, 1842;  
 Apr. 27, 1843.

169 Aug. 6, 1838; Aug. 1, 1839.

170 Oct. 18, 1845.

171 Jan. 24, 1838.

172 June 11, 1838; Oct. 14, 1839; Barrow Accts.

173 Apr. 10, 1837; Apr. 11, 1845.

early in the spring for summer use, and during the hot summer months slips were again started for fall and winter consumption.<sup>174</sup> During November or late in the preceding month, if weather conditions precluded their keeping longer in the ground, they were dug and "hilled" for use during the winter.<sup>175</sup> Pumpkins, too, were planted between the corn hills about the time that the corn was laid by and when fall came were added to the larder of both planter and slave.<sup>176</sup> Watermelons found a separate patch for their exclusive use and during the course of the hot summer weather the black became well acquainted with its tasty succulence.<sup>177</sup> Tobacco was grown for home consumption for both the planter and his slaves had need thereof.<sup>178</sup> Below the quarter stretched the orchards where grew peach, plum, and other fruit trees.<sup>179</sup> And it may be supposed that many a black so charted his course back to his quarters after the day's work so that, by the mere outstretching of a hand, he could sample the juicy sweetness of the ripened fruit.

The livestock on Highland plantation might well be divided into two divisions; that which was used in the work of the plantation, and that which found use only in amusement or sports. Barrow was a racing enthusiast and kept a large stable, but the discussion of these interests will be reserved until later. As he used plows for cotton cultivation as much as possible a

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<sup>174</sup> July 15, 1839; Aug. 16, 1840.

<sup>175</sup> Nov. 3, 1836; Nov. 9, 1838; Nov. 10, 1842; Oct. 13, Nov. 9, 1844.

<sup>176</sup> Apr. 6, 1841; Oct. 23, 1845.

<sup>177</sup> July 20, 1837; July 1, 1839; Apr. 6, 1841.

<sup>178</sup> Aug. 31, 1843.

<sup>179</sup> July 1, 1839; Feb. 23, 1840.

large number of horses and mules was needed. He strove constantly to improve the quality of his teams and wrote in 1845, "have the Best plough Teams I ever had."<sup>180</sup> His work stock was apparently kept in good condition and mention of the fact is not unusual in his Diary. From time to time he purchased horses and mules<sup>181</sup> until at his death he had over 30 head of work horses and over 40 head of mules.<sup>182</sup> Oxen were used principally for getting timber and wood out of the swamp, and apparently Barrow never depended upon their labor for use in the fields, for at his death only 4 yoke were mentioned in the inventory of the estate.<sup>183</sup> Cattle were raised chiefly for the use of the inhabitants of the "Big House," and though Barrow occasionally bought blooded heifers and young bulls he made no great effort to build up the quality of his herd.<sup>184</sup> A small herd of dairy cattle was kept but it never assumed large proportions. Occasionally, on holidays and during the Christmas season, the slaves were given a taste of fresh beef. In 1854 there were 160 head of cattle inventoried on the estate.<sup>185</sup> Hogs were raised in large numbers for home consumption. At times as high as 300 head were kept,<sup>186</sup> but the total varied with the years. Barrow killed and put up as high as 60 hogs a year,<sup>187</sup> smoking and salting

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<sup>180</sup> Feb. 8, 1845.

<sup>181</sup> Nov. 29, 1837; Nov. 1, 1844; Barrow Accts.

<sup>182</sup> See Appendix II.

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>184</sup> Sept. 3, 1837; Dec. 22, 1843.

<sup>185</sup> See Appendix II.

<sup>186</sup> May 3, 1843.

<sup>187</sup> Oct. 16, 24, 1842; Oct. 12, Nov. 30, 1845; Jan. 29, 1846.

the meat for winter use. His negroes, it can be assumed, usually received plenty of meat with their rations for only rarely did they steal pork from the store house or snatch slab-sided porkers from the pens.<sup>188</sup> The hogs were not blooded but were of a crossed breed. In the early 1840's an experiment was made with Berkshires but the new blood did not prove successful for Barrow wrote that he had changed his opinion of them owing to the fact that they were poor breeders and that the sows "Let the Buzzards Eat evry pig."<sup>189</sup> Mutton, too, offered a variation to both white and slave diet, and the Diary records that on one occasion a relative "sent for a Mutton for the wedding."<sup>190</sup> In 1854 the inventory of the estate listed 49 head of sheep valued at \$98.<sup>191</sup> The usual fowls of the barnyard were raised in large numbers. Many no doubt found their way surreptitiously into the pots of the slaves and Barrow at one time recounted that "our pet Deer Eat off the heads of 12 East India geese."<sup>192</sup>

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188 Oct. 30, 1836.

189 May 3, Nov. 6, 1843.

190 May 23, 1844.

191 See Appendix II.

192 Apr. 17, 1836.

## Machinery and Improvements

The effective management of a large plantation necessitated the use of much machinery and involved the direction of a great amount of mechanical work. At times slaves were assigned to these tasks and certain of the blacks became very efficient in the use of tools,<sup>193</sup> but for the most part outside skilled labor was depended upon for complicated tasks such as the repair of gins and presses. The most common implement of cotton production was the hoe, and Barrow, like most planters, depended upon it for the making of his staple, though, whenever possible, ploughs were used to cultivate the cotton and to keep the rows free of weeds. From 15 to 25<sup>194</sup> ploughs were usually kept running during the season, and stopped only during inclement weather or when the cotton or corn became too tall for efficient cultivation.<sup>195</sup> During the 1830's ploughs of local manufacture were purchased. The Simeon plow apparently stood up well under hard negro use, for Barrow commented that the plough was the best "ever put<sup>196</sup> in the ground." The cost during the late 1830's was \$7.00

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193 It is interesting to note that the planter often depended upon his "Driver" to select the hoes purchased. See Apr. 1, 1840.

194 Apr. 9, 23, June 5, 1838; Feb. 15, 1839.

195 June 2, 1842.

196 Jan. 31, 1837.

each, and, during the season of 1839, Barrow purchased at least 15.<sup>197</sup> By 1840, however, he had decided to experiment further for he bought "N<sup>o</sup> 3 red Yankey ploughs," and was well satisfied with them for a time.<sup>198</sup> However, by 1843 he was again purchasing from Simeon of Laurel Hill.<sup>199</sup> It cannot be determined where he purchased his other farm implements but it is assumed that most of them were bought locally.<sup>200</sup> From time to time wagons were added to his equipment and carts were constructed on the plantation.

As early as the 1830's Barrow installed steam-driven gins at Highland.<sup>201</sup> His first gins were of the Jones make and he was apparently well satisfied with them for a number of years. In 1841 he sent to South Carolina for two new Boatright gins and noted, after one had been set up and started during late summer, that it appeared "to Gin verry fast." Two weeks later he was still well pleased, for he wrote, "never saw as fine Gins as the two I rec<sup>d</sup>. this fall from Carolina."<sup>202</sup> He probably used this make until the middle of the decade. He also used steam-driven trashers for it was often necessary to precede the ginning of the cotton by running it through such a machine to remove foreign matter from the fine cotton threads. At one time in the early forties he had only one trasher running, a situation which slowed up the ginning process.<sup>203</sup>

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197 Feb. 4, 1839.

198 Jan. 27, 1840; Barrow Accts.

199 Barrow Accts.

200 Feb. 5, 1844.

201 Feb. 9, 1839.

202 Aug. 23, Sept. 9, 1841; Oct. 7, 1843.

203 Oct. 23, 1842.

Barrow pressed his own cotton. It is not known what make of press he used during his first decade as a planter, but in 1843 he installed an iron screw press of the Newell patent which did not come up to his expectations, though it was "much faster" than any he had used prior to this time.<sup>204</sup> Although excellent care was taken of his trashers, gins, and presses, in 1843 a disastrous fire not only destroyed two of his gins but over 100 bales of cotton, a loss which he estimated at over \$8,000.<sup>205</sup>

In addition to the use of steam for cotton machinery, Barrow, in the late thirties, extended this form of power to other uses. His sawmill<sup>206</sup> and his grinding mills<sup>207</sup> were converted from horse-power to steam-power with a resulting increase in output. Great quantities of wood and timber were cut in the swamps on his lands, for great was the use thereof, not only for heating the negro quarters and the plantation home but for many building purposes. He used grinding mills to make meal for domestic use and to grind various grains for stock food. In addition, he did a great deal of work of this type for his neighbors;<sup>208</sup> plantation economy involved elements of both self-sufficiency and co-operativeness.

In the care of the plantation machinery it was necessary that much blacksmithing be done. From the available records

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204 Sept. 15, 27, 1843.

205 Dec. 2, 1843.

206 Feb. 9, 1839.

207 Nov. 8, 1843; May 12, 20, 1844; Barrow Accts.

208 Mar. 9, 1840.

it can be concluded that Barrow did not possess a slave who was a trained blacksmith, for though certain blacks were often delegated to aid in repair work, there is no record of a single major repair job being consigned to a slave. At times this incurred considerable expense, as was the case during the 1840's. Until that year, Barrow depended upon various smiths to do this work, but after that time he mentions the men by name, so they must have been more or less permanently employed.<sup>209</sup> In 1840 a smith named Barrow was paid \$148.50 for work done,<sup>210</sup> two years later a "Blacksmith" received \$116.00,<sup>211</sup> in 1843 a colored smith was employed at a cost of \$1.50 per day,<sup>212</sup> and the following year "old" Dennis Bynes came to build running gear<sup>213</sup> for the gins and grinding mills. But Bynes did not remain the year out nor did he do all the plantation work, for in his accounts of that year Barrow recorded that he paid a "Mr. Her-<sup>214</sup>rin" \$99.00 for blacksmithing. In 1845 R. Chatham came to work at a wage of \$2 per day<sup>215</sup> but was apparently laid off<sup>216</sup> when "old" Bynes returned to the plantation in September. Much repair work was done by the smiths as gins, presses, and trashers were kept in good running condition; carts and wagons were equipped with new tires or new running gears; sheds, scaffolds, cribs, and other out-buildings were put in order, and

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209 May 12, 1837; Apr. 9, 1838.

210 Barrow Accts.

211 Ibid.

212 July 26, 1843.

213 June 28, 1843; Jan. 6, 1844.

214 Barrow Accts.

215 Feb. 26, 1845.

216 Sept. 19, 1845.



at odd times when work was not pressing, wedges, axes, hoes, chains, and other common tools were placed in first class condition.<sup>217</sup>

Breakdowns often necessitated sending to New Orleans for repairs. Heavy castings and intricate parts were ordered and work ceased until they arrived and the blacksmiths installed them.<sup>218</sup> Large quantities of bagging, rope, and twine were required for the harvesting and marketing of the crop, and were an important part of the year's expenditure. In 1841 more than \$1100 was spent for the purchase of bagging and rope.<sup>219</sup> Occasionally the supplies failed to arrive on time and the baling and pressing of the cotton had to await their arrival.<sup>220</sup>

Bennet H. Barrow was not a scientific planter. To be sure, he took agricultural journals and kept fairly well abreast of the times as far as planting was concerned, and occasionally made experiments. But he is not to be counted among those patrons of Ceres who were more interested in the improvements of crops or livestock than in the making of money. In this respect he is typical of those planters south of Mason and Dixon's Line. That he utilized the system of rotation of crops to increase or retain the fertility of his soils is fairly certain,<sup>221</sup> but a complete rotation of all his fields

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<sup>217</sup> Oct. 7, 1839; Jan. 15, Feb. 14, Mar. 20, 1840; Nov. 1, 1845; Barrow Accts.

<sup>218</sup> Oct. 2, 1840.

<sup>219</sup> Aug. 7, 1841; Barrow Accts.

<sup>220</sup> Sept. 11, 1832.

<sup>221</sup> Feb. 13, 1839.

was impossible, as he planted many more acres to cotton than to all the rest of his crops combined. It is not recorded that he ever purchased guano or any other type of commercial fertilizer, but he did manure the fields of Highland and the vegetable garden was kept well supplied with the by-product of the poultry houses.<sup>222</sup>

In addition to these methods, he sometimes put the women to bringing the rich leafy mold from the timber tracts to scatter on the truck patches about the quarters.<sup>223</sup>

He was not usually very much interested in agricultural experiments, but, in a few instances, bestirred himself to the extent that some investigation was made. In 1837 he tried wrapping paper around ears of seed-corn, but the experiment evidently did not facilitate the shelling process.<sup>224</sup>

In riding about his fields, he had noticed that some two-ear stalks matured more quickly than others and that the fodder was not as heavy as on one-ear stalks. Therefore, to increase his yield, he planted a few rows of corn using the grains of the two-eared stalks. But he made no later comment as to whether or not the experiment was a success.<sup>225</sup>

He tried grafting pear, peach, and apple trees, but he was not sufficiently interested in horticulture to continue these experiments.<sup>226</sup>

During certain seasons his crops were raided by squirrels and raccons, and he, therefore, tried vari-

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<sup>222</sup> Feb. 17, 1845; Feb. 3, 1846.

<sup>223</sup> Apr. 1, 1844.

<sup>224</sup> Oct. 27, 1837.

<sup>225</sup> Mar. 4, 1840.

<sup>226</sup> Jan. 22, 1840.

ous methods of poisoning and trapping these pests. Corn and fish which had been treated with arsenic were used, and traps, in some instances, were utilized.<sup>227</sup> But perhaps his most profitable experiment came in studying the hoeing habits of his field hands. He noticed that they chopped too rapidly and that they frequently used one side of the hoe. He therefore set about to increase their daily efficiency, and his efforts were well rewarded. "I am well paid for my trouble in teaching my small gang to Hoe, never saw such hoe hands as they are, two year [s] ago took two on a row - now Eaquele to a woman, in directing them to make a slow & sure lick in one place & to cut the full width of the hoe every time - unless reminded of it they would stand & make 4 or 5 licks in one place, tire themselves & do no work, have several grown ones that work harder & do less work than any in the field."<sup>228</sup>

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<sup>227</sup> Mar. 27, Apr. 13, 1838.

<sup>228</sup> Apr. 16, 1840.

### The Inhabitants of the Quarter

The thesis has been advanced that the most striking feature of southern life was not that a single staple product was the backbone of the agricultural class, but that the labor system utilized the use of black slaves. The plantation revolved around the slave quarter. Whether Master or overseer was in charge made little difference, as it was to the owner's advantage that the system of chattel slavery function as smoothly as possible. The treatment of slaves varied from north to south of the cotton kingdom and from planter to planter. Some masters were harsh and some were extremely lenient. Many slaves lived under bad housing conditions with little clothing and less substantial food; others were more fortunate in having owners who believed that it was good business to keep the black fairly well contented with the necessities of life. In the general treatment of the slave population of Highland, Barrow was perhaps above the average for his section of the Southland. In some respects, he was typical, but in others it seems to the writer that he gave the inhabitants of the quarter a much better opportunity for material comfort and happiness than was general. He was in the planting business for the sole purpose of making money

and evidently believed that a contented black would work far better than one who was dissatisfied with his surroundings.

In his general outlook on the institution of slavery, Barrow is to be likened to most "Southrons." He read much about the abolition movement in the North and did not approve of the proposed course of action. He witnessed some amalgamation of blacks and whites in his own parish and this practice he condemned bitterly, doing all in his power to show his dis-  
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approval. He did not approve close association between the Anglo-Saxon and his slave, and, on more than one occasion,  
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gave vent to his feelings in the matter.

On the other hand, he did not condone extreme cruelty to that underprivileged class, in one instance saying, "A meaner set than the Howells [neighbors] do not live - cruel & unjust  
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in the extreme." Another instance is described graphically: "Went to Town man tried for Whipping a negro to Death.  
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trial will continue till tomorrow - deserves death - Cleared!" When certain of his old negroes died, he commented in his Diary on their worth above money, as exemplified by the death of "Old Orange" when he wrote, "A more perfect negro never lived, faithfull honest & purley religious, never knew him  
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guilty of a wrong." And from time to time he praised the

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229 Aug. 3, 1840; Aug. 15, 1841; July 4, 1842.

230 On Mar. 20, 1840, he wrote, "Wash. Pennington repairing my Gin - the most perfect fool I know - stands & talks to the negroes &c. negroes no more respect him than a negro."

231 Sept. 15, 1840.

232 May 21, 1839.

233 Jan. 15, 1843.

work or character of many of his other negroes.<sup>234</sup> On more than one occasion he came to the rescue of some black who had been accused unjustly of some crime committed in the neighborhood, and in 1839 he came to the financial aid of "Jerry" who had had \$4 in counterfeit money passed off on him.<sup>235</sup> But at all times he was ready to condemn those who were not worthy of praise. His house boy, Jim, was termed "the meanest, dirtiest boy I ever had," L. Fill was one of the "most rascally boys" he ever owned, Darcas and Fanny were the "greatest shirks" in his possession, Dennis and Lewis were rascals of the first water, and B. Lucy was "the greatest rascal" but the "smartest negro of her age" that he had ever seen.<sup>236</sup> Changes in conduct he noted with equal precise fairness. In 1840 Kiah and his wife, Luce, and little Hannah changed suddenly from being "careless & rascally" and became "the most anxious to please me, work well & brisk - & keep themselves verry cleanly."<sup>237</sup> And there is little doubt that their good conduct was encouraged.

It is impossible to determine the exact number of slaves living at Highland plantation at any one time during the period from 1833 to 1846, as Barrow did not prepare a list of his slaves each year. On his death, however, in 1854, it is certain that there were 199 inhabitants of the quarters.<sup>238</sup> Of

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<sup>234</sup> Sept. 29, 1839.

<sup>235</sup> Dec. 25, 1839.

<sup>236</sup> Jan. 24, 1838; May 21, Sept. 11, 29, Dec. 5, 1839; Apr. 8, 1840.

<sup>237</sup> Apr. 8, 1840.

<sup>238</sup> For the complete inventory of the slaves see Appendix II.

these slaves 8 belonged to the separate estate of his first wife, Emily Barrow, and 23 were the individual property of his second wife, Nancy Haile Barrow. Barrow, then, owned at the time of his death 168 slaves, representing his inheritance from his father, his purchases at various times, and the natural increase of the plantation. According to his chart <sup>239</sup> between 1835 and 1846 there were 69 births on the plantation, but as 16 of the colored babies were either born dead or did not long survive, the increase during the period totaled only 53. The deaths during a slightly longer period, from 1831 to 1845, <sup>240</sup> totaled 34. But the compilation is not accurately understood unless it is revealed that many of the deaths occurred between the ages of a week or ten days to six years. It is determined then, that the average number of slaves from year to year remained about the same, the only increase being accounted for in the few purchases that were made.

In 1834 Barrow, together with his brother, made an extended trip to Virginia to purchase slaves. They were just beginning to expand their planting operations following the death of their father, and more labor was needed. The purchases were made, but Barrow was evidently not pleased with the labor of his Virginia slaves for six years later he wrote, "I will never buy grown negroes from Va. - or upper Country. Small boys and girls may do, but grown ones are not worth as much - by at least one third as our creoles -

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<sup>239</sup> See Appendix VII.

<sup>240</sup> See Appendix VIII.

one creole will pick as much as two of them."<sup>241</sup> During the years following 1830, he purchased slaves only in small numbers. Occasionally he attended a sale of negroes but he seldom was tempted to bid.<sup>242</sup> In 1840 he received a negro cook on trial, but it is not recorded that he ever made the purchase.<sup>243</sup> In 1841 his accounts show that he paid \$1,055 in New Orleans for slaves.<sup>244</sup> Two years later he bought 7 young slaves from Henry Munson,<sup>245</sup> and in 1850 he purchased from widow Groesbeck a slave named "Issaac," aged twenty-three years, for the sum of \$800.<sup>246</sup> But, though his purchases were few, his sales were even fewer in number, for there is reason to believe that during the entire period under consideration he sold only two slaves. In 1836 he sent B. Sam and Amy to New Orleans by a neighbor, Mr. Woodfolk, to be sold. He realized \$1760 for the pair and recorded that they were "not worth \$5."<sup>247</sup>

The organization of slave labor on a large plantation was a problem of importance faced by all planters whether in the Old Dominion or in the Florida parishes of Louisiana. While the majority of southern planters used overseer to direct the slave gangs in the fields and to take care of the general organization of the plantation, this was by no means the universal practice. During the first seven or eight

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241 Oct. 18, 1836.

242 Dec. 19, 1842.

243 Dec. 13, 1840.

244 Barrow Accts.

245 Bills of Sale, Vol. III, pp. 142-143.

246 Notarial Record, Vol. K, pp. 58-59.

247 Dec. 16, 1836.



years of his planting career, Barrow apparently used the services of a white man to direct his agricultural operations, but by 1838 he had come to oppose the system and to depend entirely upon the services of a negro driver. In 1833, by the middle of October, he turned A. Fair off and<sup>248</sup> began to oversee himself. In 1835 his overseer was N.<sup>249</sup> H. Jackson, who only stayed on the plantation one year. On January 19, 1837, he hired a Mr. Bailey as overseer at a salary of \$500 per year, but the contract was not completed,<sup>250</sup> for Barrow "fired" him the same day. It is not known who took Bailey's place, but the master was not satisfied with his services. In April, 3 acres of cotton had to be<sup>251</sup> replanted because it was "neglected" by the overseer. The same month the owner of Highland remarked, "my Overseer<sup>252</sup> so good he is good for nothing," and six months later became so exasperated that he wrote, "more Whipping to do this Fall than all together in three years owing to my D mean Overseer - Never will have another unless I should be compelled<sup>253</sup> to leave - they are a perfect nuisance." When cotton picking time came, Barrow noted that only an average of 200 pounds per day was being picked and that very trashy "under<sup>254</sup> the eyes of my D. fool Overseer." From 1838 on until his

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- 248 Oct. 14, 1833.
  - 249 June 29, 1836.
  - 250 Jan. 19, 1837.
  - 251 Apr. 17, 1837.
  - 252 Apr. 26, 1837.
  - 253 Oct. 2, 1837.
  - 254 Oct. 4, 1837.

death Barrow evidently did not use an overseer but depended upon his own efforts and those of his driver to keep the organization moving. That he was satisfied with this plan is evidenced by an entry in his Diary on July 25, 1839, "I hope the time will come When every Overseer in the country will be compelled to adopt some other mode of making a living - they're a perfect nuisance cause of dissatisfaction among the negros - being more possessed of more brutal feelings - I make better crops than those Who Employ them."<sup>255</sup>

In lieu of an overseer Barrow made use of a negro driver in his fields. For years Alfred held that responsibility and he usually filled the job with efficiency.<sup>256</sup> On occasion Barrow was away for several weeks at a time and during his absence the plantation routine went on as usual, Alfred having many responsibilities. During his master's stay away from the plantation he was in charge of the whole establishment, never leaving until his return. At other times he not only had charge of the field gangs but made trips to town for certain supplies.<sup>257</sup> But the driver had no authority to punish blacks for any reason whatsoever, and Barrow gave his reasons for this rule, "it is wrong to allow a driver to use any authority - but to report injustice to him the negros in general - & yourself - negroes are not Capable of self govern-

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<sup>255</sup> July 25, 1839.

<sup>256</sup> Sept. 14, 1839; Mar. 28, 1843.

<sup>257</sup> Apr. 1, 1840.

ment - want of discretion - judgment &c." <sup>258</sup> He had, however, considerable authority over the field hands though on occasion when the hands did not pick enough cotton or the cotton picked was trashy Barrow whipped the driver along with <sup>259</sup> the common hands.

The Barrow slaves were probably typical of the region but Barrow evidently thought that his workers were better than the average for he made numerous mention of their good qualities. Much of the credit probably should go to the master himself for he devised many ways to increase their labors. They were well fed and housed, they received gifts of money at Christmas time, they were divided into rival gangs at cotton picking time and the losing side gave dinners to the winners, <sup>260</sup> and the individuals sometimes raced down the cotton row. <sup>261</sup> In 1840 Barrow wrote, "My negros have their name up in the neighbourhood for making more than any one else & <sup>262</sup> they think 'Whatever they do is better than any body Else'; keeping the workers in this mental frame of mind was an investment that paid good dividends. At times the neighbors doubted Barrow's statements as to the accomplishments of the cotton pickers, but though bets were made, it is not recorded that <sup>263</sup> Barrow was ever the loser.

There were times when the work was not done well, when

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<sup>258</sup> Aug. 6, 1839.

<sup>259</sup> Oct. 22, 1839; Apr. 12, 1840.

<sup>260</sup> Sept. 23, 1842.

<sup>261</sup> Nov. 3, 1838; Aug. 25, 1839; Sept. 3, 9, 10, 11, 1842.

<sup>262</sup> Oct. 15, 1840.

<sup>263</sup> Sept. 1, 4, 1844.

very little was accomplished and when entries such as, "my Hands worked verry badly . . . General Whipping," "Whipped every hand in the field this evening," appeared in the Diary. On other occasions the colored population got "verry much out of Geer" because of the neglect of the planter and he had to turn over a new leaf and begin "overseering in Earnest."<sup>264</sup>

The general health of the plantation was one of the most important items of the slave regime. The slave represented an investment, the profits of which were lost when sickness appeared and the investment itself was lost when death came to cast an icy hand over the quarter. From the numerous entries in his Diary regarding sickness it would appear that Barrow's slaves were a sickly lot. A closer scrutiny, however, would seem to show this was not the case but that the master provided medical attention on every necessary occasion. Some years he contracted with physicians to care for the health of the plantation but usually he called them only when needed and paid them at the end of the year for the calls made. The yearly medical bills were ordinarily sizable ones and they show the extreme care which Barrow took to preserve the health of the little community. The medical bill for 1838-39 was comparatively small, if Barrow's figures are to be trusted, amounting<sup>265</sup> to only \$69.18. The following year the amount nearly quadrupled,<sup>266</sup> the expenditure reaching a total of \$238.25, and

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<sup>264</sup> Jan. 4, Apr. 27, 1839; June 10, 1844.

<sup>265</sup> Barrow Accts.

<sup>266</sup> Ibid.

from this time on the yearly outlay was over the three hundred dollar mark. For the years 1840 and 1841 the amount<sup>267</sup> totaled in excess of \$600. It is difficult to determine the exact amount spent during 1842 and 1843, for Barrow not only employed four physicians, but one of them was paid for two years' services, a total expenditure of \$912.88. Barrow was very much dissatisfied with one of these physicians, and recorded that the account of Dr. Baines was "the most rascally bill ever paid."<sup>268</sup> In 1844, apparently Dr. King was, with the exception of one visit, his only attending physician at a cost of slightly over \$300,<sup>269</sup> and the arrangement was continued the following twelve months for the sum of \$400.<sup>270</sup> It would seem that the average yearly medical expense was not large, considering that it took care not only of nearly 200 slaves on the plantation but of the inhabitants of the "Big House" as well, and that during the last two years cited, Barrow's family received a great deal of medical attention.

Every effort was made to keep the slaves in good health. Barrow made regular trips through the quarter to see that his regulations regarding cleanliness were being carried out.<sup>271</sup> A hospital was built as early as 1836,<sup>272</sup> and the sick were kept there in isolation from the rest of the slave village. Despite these precautionary efforts, epidemics occurred and individual

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267 Ibid.

268 Ibid.

269 Ibid.

270 Ibid.

271 June 17, 1838.

272 Sept. 5, 1836.

cases of illness were common. The summer of 1836 saw many hands missing from fields, especiall. after the cotton picking season began.<sup>273</sup>

From July to October of the following year was another sick period which saw the death of several children. The chief illnesses were colic, "worms," and "swelling." And that Barrow became disgusted is evident when he wrote regarding the sickness of one slave, "Peter inclined to Dropsy not worth a D---."<sup>274</sup>

In 1839, mumps and bowel complaints visited the quarter, causing much loss of time to the field hands.<sup>275</sup> The summer of 1840, the most serious epidemic occurred, with the slaves suffering with "high Fever & violent pain in the head," and Barrow recorded that he was never "so out done with sickness before."<sup>276</sup>

The year 1841 was one of good health, but it was followed in 1842 by serious epidemics of measles and scarlet fever. Barrow trusted his own children to the care of physicians, and two of them died during the course of the summer, but he attended personally to the care of his slaves, not losing a single negro. That he disagreed with the treatment of his visiting doctors is evident, for he bled the patients when first taken and followed this with immediate emetics. On the other hand, the doctors objected to bleeding, because the pulse was weak and only tried this expediency after other remedies had failed, a treatment which, as Barrow said, "prove fatal in a majority of

Cases."<sup>277</sup> In 1843, an epidemic of chicken pox was avoided

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<sup>273</sup> Aug. 5, 6, 9, 12, 1836.

<sup>274</sup> See entries from July 24 to Oct. 13, 1837.

<sup>275</sup> Apr. 10, Aug. 23, 1839.

<sup>276</sup> July 27-30, Aug. 25, 1840.

<sup>277</sup> Apr. 4, July 11-30, Aug. 22-26, 1842.

only by the vaccination of all slaves. Sore eyes also appeared during the spring, but not with serious consequences.<sup>278</sup> Eighteen forty-four was an unusually healthy year, though the master of Highland complained at one time that "half the place" was sick and that it seemed impossible for him "to escape the Epidemics."<sup>279</sup>

Despite all precautions, occasional cases of illness came to plague the planter. Lock jaw, ruptures, injuries of various types, pleurisy, as well as common colds, were a source of worry.<sup>280</sup> At times, slaves used physical disability as a means of securing immunity from work. During the middle 1840's, old Demps used his failing eyesight as a shield from the objectionable labor in the fields, but Barrow finally became aroused, put him to work, and, upon Demps running away, wrote, "gave him 25 cuts yesterday morning & ordered him to work Blind or not. to show the scoundrel. has run off - will make him see sights as Long as I live."<sup>281</sup> Neglect of midwives or mothers took a heavy toll of infants,<sup>282</sup> and many were lost through delay in reporting the illness in time for successful medical attention. Negroes were prone to be careless when working with machinery, and accidents were common around the gins and presses of the estate. In 1844 a storm blew down a cotton house crushing to death "Essex," who had just completed the task of reroofing the

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<sup>278</sup> Jan. 22, Apr. 20, 1843.

<sup>279</sup> Apr. 2, May 31, 1844.

<sup>280</sup> May 22, 1838; Aug. 28, 1842; Jan. 15, 1843; Jan. 15, 1844.

<sup>281</sup> June 12, 1844.

<sup>282</sup> June 28, 1840.

building. Barrow recorded that the cause of the negro's death was his disobedience to orders, as he had been told to set new posts along the side walls.<sup>283</sup> In 1837 George was drowned crossing a creek, "a verry great loss. one of the best negroes I ever saw. or knew. to his family as a White person."<sup>284</sup> And other accidents, from time to time, were<sup>285</sup> only narrowly avoided.

Barrow undoubtedly took more time in the general organization of his plantation than did the majority of the planting class in the South. The rules for the government of the slaves were prepared with great care and they were rigidly applied. That they were known to the community as a sort of model is attested through the fact that at least one planter<sup>286</sup> secured a copy for the guidance of his plantation. As Barrow phrased it, "A plantation might be considered as a piece of machinery, to operate successfully, all of its parts should be uniform and exact." The master was considered the "impelling force" and, unless he was interested in the "proceedings" on his plantation, nothing but "indifference" was<sup>287</sup> to be expected from his negroes. The life of a slave was a regulated life. His sole interest was the welfare of the plantation. He was not permitted to raise anything for sale on his garden plots for this would detract from his attention

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283 Aug. 3, 1844.

284 Oct. 7, 1837.

285 July 22, 1843.

286 Jan. 8, 1844.

287 See Appendix III.



to the field crops of the master. He could not marry off the plantation for several specific reasons which Barrow gave in his "Rules."<sup>288</sup> He kept regular hours and was forced to keep his person and his habitation reasonably clean. He was not allowed to wander about the country-side during holidays or at times when the weather was inclement. The quarter was made the center of his world, for Barrow believed if the slave was made comfortable at home, if the essentials of happiness were provided for him, that there would be little inclination<sup>289</sup> for him to shirk his work.

The Sabbath was free of activity at Highland except during the picking season when uncertain weather might dictate harvesting of the cotton as soon as possible; as Barrow put it, "Sunday being a day of rest to the negros, I like to be a bout - allowance day - & they frequently want things not convenient to get any other day - & My orders for every negro to come up every Sunday morning cleaned & head combed."<sup>290</sup> But it must not be supposed that the planter was an individual who forced Sunday religion on his slaves. From the records extant, it would seem that he frowned upon religion for his slaves. On one occasion when a neighbor's slaves were "cutting up a great many shins" he wrote that the troubles had grown out of "his having them preached to for 4 or 5 years past - greatest

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<sup>288</sup> On Oct. 2, 1839, Barrow wrote, "Lewis still out. no doubt he is down at Uncle Eats Where his Father lives - Which proves the impropriety of having husbands off of the plantation - he would not have staid out more than one night." See also Appendix III.

<sup>289</sup> Feb. 18, 1840.

<sup>290</sup> Mar. 30, 1840; Appendix III.

piece of foolishness any one ever guilty of no true Christianity among the Church going Whites - and how Expect to Preach morality among a set of ignorant beings . . . proper discipline may improve them and make them better."<sup>291</sup> On another occasion when a comet appeared in the heavens to frighten the superstitious blacks, he gave them "a Lecture" upon the folly of their belief that the world would come to an end upon "their superstitious belief in Dreams."<sup>292</sup> It is not to be supposed, however, because he did not foster the teaching of religion that he did not set rigid rules of morality for his black children to follow.

Slave marriages were common at Highland and inter-racial promiscuity was bitterly condemned. At one time he wrote, "had a general Whipping frolick. White men sending for some of my women by one of my boys. 'one eyed Sam' - a load of buck shot will be the dose if I can see them or find them."<sup>293</sup> One night his brother's "boy" was seized in the slave quarter and retained until the next day, a punishment which Barrow termed as "better than Whipping."<sup>294</sup> Apparently the slaves were well in hand, for there were few altercations among them and, for the most part, they lived contented lives in the shadow of the "Great House."

The slave quarter at Highland was typical of the south.

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<sup>291</sup> On Oct. 11, 1844, Barrow wrote, "went to the Miss Swifts. nearly all of their hands have run off. from pure impudence founded in their 'Negro<sup>s</sup>' religion, & wish by that means to run the overseer off, will see them put in order, my health permitting". See also Apr. 19, 1844.

<sup>292</sup> Mar. 30, Apr. 2, 16, 1843.

<sup>293</sup> Sept. 4, 1837.

<sup>294</sup> Jan. 9, 1838.

The negro cabins ranged along one side of a broad street some two or three hundred yards from the master's house. They were near to the stables, lots, gardens, and fish ponds. Barrow provided comfortable frame buildings and inspected the whole quarter at regular intervals to determine that it was in good order.<sup>295</sup> Special time was given to clean up the cabins.

The water supply was watched carefully and new wells dug when needed.<sup>296</sup> Additional buildings were erected to offset the depredations of time. In 1842 a building was erected behind the "Great House" for the use of the house servants.<sup>297</sup> In the fall of 1839 a new jail was constructed, and, three years later,<sup>298</sup> it was replaced with another structure. In 1838 a dance hall was built for the exclusive use of the black inhabitants of the plantation and there is much evidence to show that it was used frequently.<sup>299</sup> It would seem that Barrow provided well for his colored population.

Despite the fact that much cloth was woven on the plantation and made up into clothing, the yearly outlay for this item of slave upkeep was a sizable one. In the "Rules of My Plantation" Barrow recorded, "I give them cloths twice a year, two suits - one pair shoes for winter every third year a blanket." In 1837, 75 pair of blankets were received from New Orleans, in 1841 a few more than 70 were purchased at a

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<sup>295</sup> July 14, 1839; Apr. 11, 1840; Mar. 9, 1844.

<sup>296</sup> Apr. 21, 1841.

<sup>297</sup> June 14, 1842.

<sup>298</sup> Oct. 13, 1839; Aug. 23, 1842.

<sup>299</sup> July 31, 1838.

cost of \$305, and in 1845, 10 pair of "French" blankets were received at a cost of \$3.50 to \$3.75 per pair.<sup>300</sup> Shoes were not considered important enough to be listed often in the accounts, but there is ample evidence that they were distributed each year.<sup>301</sup> At times the women were given ready-made dresses.<sup>302</sup> And toward the end of December those slaves who had acquitted themselves creditably during the year came to expect little gifts of clothing and some even received store-made suits in which to promenade on Sundays and holidays. One of the most unusual items regarding general housing conditions was noted by Barrow on July 26, 1840, when he wrote,<sup>303</sup> "gave the negros Mucheto Bars." This was not the common practice among Louisiana planters and is a general indication of the excellent treatment accorded the Barrow slaves.

The food for slave consumption was carefully watched, for nothing could disrupt the smooth-running slave regime as could an inadequate quantity of eatables. Meat was the foundation of their diet, and Barrow bought large quantities of mess and prime pork to offset the insufficient production of the plantation.<sup>304</sup> As a rule, the hogs, sheep, cattle, and poultry killed during the course of a year were consumed during holiday periods as a reward for labor dutifully performed. The allowance was ordinarily 4 or 5 pounds of meat

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300 Nov. 20, 1837; Jan. 27, 1841; Nov. 28, 1845; Barrow Accts.  
 301 Oct. 24, 1837; Nov. 2, 1843; Oct. 19, 1844; Barrow Accts.  
 302 Mar. 26, 1837.  
 303 July 26, 1840.  
 304 June 1, 1837; Apr. 8, 1838; May 20, 1838; Apr. 13, 1840; Mar. 17, 1843; Nov. 29, 1845; Barrow Accts.

a week for each field hand. 2 pounds for children up to four years. The quality as Barrow reported it was always "Clear good meat."<sup>305</sup> In addition, large quantities of molasses and sugar were bought, for the sweet tooth of the black demanded satisfaction.<sup>306</sup> To offer variation from the ordinary ration of corn meal, Barrow at times purchased flour for his negroes, an item unusual in plantation expenditure.<sup>307</sup> In addition to these items, Barrow bought heavily from Bayou Sara and New Orleans merchants, but here it is difficult to draw the line between goods purchased for use of the family table and foodstuffs acquired for slave consumption.<sup>308</sup>

Slave crime was a Southern problem which went hand in hand with the institution of slavery. On the whole the slave usually proved a tractable individual, but outbreaks were common in the plantation areas. As a rule, Barrow's slaves gave him very little trouble. That they were not mean is evident; but that they were typical of their class and often needed punishment must be admitted. Crimes of major nature were at times committed in the community, but Barrow black population was never proven to be implicated. Foreign slaves were not permitted on the plantation and, consequently, when they were

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<sup>305</sup> Appendix III.

<sup>306</sup> Mar. 17, 1843; Mar. 20, 1845; Barrow Accts.

<sup>307</sup> May 18, 1840.

<sup>308</sup> Barrow Accts. It is interesting to here note Barrow's opinion of the Bayou Sara merchants. On Mar. 11, 1838, he penned, "I believe there is but one or two stritly honest Merchants at B Sara - they put an inferior article on you - and charge from 50 to 200 pr ct." And evidently his opinion did not change in the years that followed, for he never purchased a great deal at the port of St. Francisville.

found the treatment accorded them was severe, on one occasion  
Barrow breaking his sword cane "over one of their skulls."<sup>309</sup>

As stealing was a prevalent negro vice it was to be expected  
that foreign negroes would visit the store houses on occasion.

But captures were the exception, for culprits usually made a  
quick and quiet getaway.<sup>310</sup> The master of Highland trusted

his own colored population to the extent that he ordinarily  
became vehement at accusations cast in their direction. In  
1839, a neighbor's gin was fired and "Dennis" was blamed.

Whereupon Barrow planned a call upon the neighbor, saying, "if  
he says it was Dennis I will curse him and if I ever catch one  
of his negros on this side the creek will make them see  
sights."<sup>311</sup> In 1841 it was rumored that a slave insurrection

was about to break out in the parish. During the following  
two weeks, many of the slaves from the neighboring plantations  
were examined, but none of the Barrow negroes were found  
guilty.<sup>312</sup>

Stealing was the most common fault of the Barrow negroes.  
Porkers were never quite safe inside the pens below the stable;  
poultry, though kept behind locked doors at night, was often  
missing when morning came, and even the store house suffered  
on occasion.<sup>313</sup> Articles were apt to be found missing around  
the "Great House," and small fancy notions had an especial  
appeal.<sup>314</sup>

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<sup>309</sup> Dec. 31, 1837.

<sup>310</sup> Oct. 7, 1838.

<sup>311</sup> Dec. 11, 1839.

<sup>312</sup> See entries from July 17 to July 28, 1841.

<sup>313</sup> Nov. 2, 1837; Jan. 23, 1838; Nov. 6, 1842; June 4, 1843.

<sup>314</sup> Feb. 9, 1846.

The most common misdemeanor on the Barrow plantation was the taking of "French leave" by the inhabitants of the slave quarter. Feigned illness, light cotton pickings, punishments, and imagined abuses were the common causes. <sup>315</sup> "I had rather a negro would do anything Else than runaway," Barrow once said, <sup>316</sup> and his punishments for this act were usually severe.

Drives for runaway slaves in which Barrow and his neighbors participated were common, and were at times entered into with the <sup>317</sup> zest of sport. Each planter attempted to find his own slaves, for they usually stayed within a short distance of the home plantation in order to be near their women and a ready food supply. With few exceptions, runaways stayed out but a short period, came back, received their punishment, and returned to the routine of the plantation, but there were times when a slave would be absent from the fields for a period of six months. His capture resulted in more severe punishment than was given the field hand who had departed for a brief vacation from the vicissitudes of cotton picking. At times the runaways established regular camps in the swamps to which were <sup>318</sup> brought many comforts and luxuries from the plantation. Few escaped to the North, but at least one Barrow negro made <sup>319</sup> this journey successfully. That he was not satisfied with

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<sup>315</sup> Oct. 1, 1837; Sept. 28, 1838; Aug. 13, Sept. 25, Oct. 3, 1839; June 13, 1842.

<sup>316</sup> Oct. 3, 1839.

<sup>317</sup> May 24, Sept. 29, 1837; May 7, 1843; Nov. 1, 12, 13, 1844; Dogs were often used in negro driving. See Oct. 13, 16, 1845.

<sup>318</sup> Nov. 13, 1837; Dec. 6, 7, 1839.

<sup>319</sup> It is quite probable that the two items listed in the Barrow Accts., of 1841 and 1845 for thirty and sixty dollars respectively, was for advertising for runaway blacks.

life in Canada is evidenced by the fact that in 1841 he wrote his former master asking for money that he might return to the South and to freedom.<sup>320</sup>

Barrow's punishment of his slaves was as a rule only severe enough to be conducive to good discipline. Whipping was the common method of keeping the slaves in line, and, though the rod was not spared, brutal whippings were the exception. Young slaves and women were not flogged as severely as men, but, for more important offenses, the maximum number of lashes might be given.<sup>321</sup> The jail below the slave quarters usually had occupants,<sup>322</sup> but only rarely was a slave interned for more than a few days. A pair of stocks was a part of the regular equipment of the plantation, and a post was kept near the slave quarter to which refractory blacks were chained for brief periods, week-ends, or holidays.<sup>323</sup> Barrow was constantly devising ingenious punishments, for it was realized that uncertainty was an important aid in keeping his gangs well in hand. On one occasion, he gave Lize and Fanny a couple of switches and "made them fight it out." After one switch was gone,<sup>324</sup> "they seemed quit[e] sick of it." Another time 3 rugged field hands were put to washing clothes as a means of humiliation.<sup>325</sup> At times certain black "bucks" were forced to wear women's clothing, others were "exhibited" at the quarters

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320 May 18, 1841.

321 Mar. 16, Oct. 20, 1838; Oct. 4, 20, 1839.

322 Dec. 30, 1838; Oct. 13, 1839.

323 Dec. 26, 1836; Nov. 7, 1838; July 19, 1839.

324 Mar. 6, 1840.

325 Sept. 30, 1839.



during Christmas and other holidays, some were paraded wearing red flannel caps, and Jack once had to wear a sheet topped with red feathered flannel ear muffs.<sup>326</sup> When the gangs worked badly in the fields, Barrow occasionally made them labor very late, a punishment which apparently was very effective.<sup>327</sup> And when the women shirked their labors, they were put to spinning cloth, each one being given a task proportional to the lack of work performed.<sup>328</sup>

Though punishments of the mild variety were the general rule, Barrow at times employed harsher measures. Brutal whippings, which were followed by duckings, came on occasion. And the imersions, it is to be imagined, were of such length as to bring a change in the slave's behavior.<sup>329</sup> Some runaways were severely beaten upon being caught.<sup>330</sup> For more flagrant violations, the negroes were "staked down." This was apparently the old punishment of staking them to the ground on their backs, spread eagle fashion. Periods of staking were usually short, but at times the refractory one was thus fastened for as long as twelve to fifteen hours.<sup>331</sup> In his Diary, Barrow once noted, "The negro hunters came this morning." They were evidently professional hunters of runaways, with a pack of trained dogs. "Ginny Jerry" was the desired runaway on this occasion and, after a hunt of some length, was found, Barrow

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<sup>326</sup> Apr. 20, 1838; Dec. 24, 25, 1839; July 5, 1840.

<sup>327</sup> May 12, 1837.

<sup>328</sup> Dec. 10, 1842.

<sup>329</sup> Oct. 15, Nov. 28, 29, 1844.

<sup>330</sup> Apr. 1, 1838.

<sup>331</sup> Aug. 16, 1841.

recording, "ran and trailed about a mile<sup>332</sup>. treed him, made the dogs pull him out of the tree, Bit him very badly, think he will stay home a while." A couple of months later, this incident was followed by a still more severe case. A negro was run from one to two miles and finally caught. Barrow then stated, "dogs soon tore him naked, took him Home Before the negro(es) at dark and made the dogs give him another over hauling."<sup>333</sup> At times negroes were shot at and wounded, but the value of the slave usually kept the planter from firing with the intent to kill.<sup>334</sup>

There was a bright side, however, to slave life at Highland. Barrow believed that rewards for good behavior and well-performed labor were a better incentive than punishments, and this method, therefore, was often used. Dinners were given at various times for the whole slave population.<sup>335</sup> Even during the cotton picking season a short holiday, followed or preceded by a dinner, gave the pickers more enthusiasm for work in the fields. The holiday season called for feasts of consequence and on at least one occasion the dinner was given at the "Big House."<sup>336</sup> At various times throughout the year, holidays were given as a reward for work faithfully accomplished. When a given task was completed ahead of schedule, the hands were given the rest of the day. This time was used to clean up the

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<sup>332</sup> Sept. 5, 6, 1845.

<sup>333</sup> Nov. 11, 1845.

<sup>334</sup> Aug. 16, 1841.

<sup>335</sup> Dec. 29, 1836; Dec. 30, 1837; Dec. 28, 1839; July 11, 1840; Jan. 1, 1846.

<sup>336</sup> Jan. 3, 1841.

quarter, to mend clothing. or to repair buildings, but on many such days Barrow simply recorded, "negroes holliday part of the day," "Finished hoeing corn second time by dinner yesterday. <sup>337</sup> Holliday afterwards," or "negros Holliday since dinner."

But whole days, even during the busiest cotton picking time, <sup>338</sup> were sometimes given as a reward of good work.

The Christmas season was one of merrymaking. From a week to two weeks vacation was ordinarily given. and, on special occasions, at the request of the slaves, the time was extended. The holiday began a few days before Christmas and lasted well into the new year. Unusually some sort of special celebration was planned, though there were some lean years which did not permit the owner to waste money in this manner. In 1842 Barrow wrote, "negros seem lively though the times are hard. Eat & drink plenty." On the following day he added, "Gave the negros as much of Evry thing to eat & drink during the Hollidays as they Wanted times so hard no[t] able to give any thing <sup>339</sup> more." Again in 1844 there was no celebration, but Barrow gave no indication as to whether it was the result of poor <sup>340</sup> work during the year or hard times. Dancing was a common diversion during the Christmas holidays. In 1846 he recorded, "Bad Beginning for New Year, negros had a dinner yesterday, some danced all night, those that did not will start to work

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<sup>337</sup> June 2, 1838; May 3, 23, 1840; May 17, 1845.

<sup>338</sup> June 10, 1837; May 18, 1839; May 29, June 12, 1841; June 18, 1842.

<sup>339</sup> Jan. 1, 1841; Dec. 27, 28, 31, 1842; Jan. 1, 1846.

<sup>340</sup> Dec. 15-31, 1844.

this morning." But "finding no Cotton to trash sent for the Fiddle And made them Dance from 12 till dark, others from the Quarter soon joined for the frolic & became quite Lively to the close."<sup>341</sup>

At Christmas time, also, came the distribution of gifts. A month or six weeks previous, the negroes made up a list of the items desired and these the master purchased either at Bayou Sara, St. Francisville, or New Orleans.<sup>342</sup> Slaves who had worked exceptionally well during the course of the year were given special gifts. In 1839 Dave Bartley and Atean were given a suit of clothes as a reward for "their fine conduct,"<sup>343</sup> and this case was not exceptional. He was opposed to the system used on many southern plantations of allowing the slaves a separate plot of ground on which to raise produce for sale. Neither could his slaves raise livestock or engage in any form of business which might bring them an income. He explained his action in his "Rules": "I prefer giving them money of Christmas to their making any thing, thusly creating an interest with you and yours . . . if a negro is suffered to sell any thing he chooses without any inquiry being made, a spirit of trafficking is at once created. to carry this on, both means and time are necessary, neither of which is he of right possessed. A negro would not be content to sell only what he raises or makes of either corn . . . or poultry, or the like,

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<sup>341</sup> Jan. 1, 1846.

<sup>342</sup> Dec. 6, 22, 26, 1841.

<sup>343</sup> Aug. 11, 1839.

but he would sell a part of his allowance allso, and would be  
tempted to commit robberies to obtain the things to sell."<sup>344</sup>

Therefore, at least during a part of his planting career, Barrow made substantial money gifts to his negroes at holiday time. In 1838 he gave them \$500 and sent them to town;<sup>345</sup> the following year \$700 was given them;<sup>346</sup> in 1840 the figure allowed was again \$700.<sup>347</sup> Thus by a system of rewards, holidays, dinners, and dances, Barrow kept the slave system at Highland running smoothly, a condition often in contrast with the efforts of other planters south of Mason and Dixon's line.

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<sup>344</sup> See Appendix III.

<sup>345</sup> Dec. 24, 1838.

<sup>346</sup> Dec. 22, 1839; Barrow Accts.

<sup>347</sup> Dec. 24, 1840; Barrow Accts.

### Amusements and Sporting Interests

The ante-bellum plantation was not only the center of a fairly complete system of staple economy; it was also the center of the social life of that planter class so well interpreted by the fiction of the Old South. Cities and towns were not numerous in the Southland and the plantation population consequently centered its social life around those lighter occupations near at hand. Visits of an informal nature were made at irregular intervals between closely acquainted families and formal or fashionable calls were exchanged between those not so well known.<sup>348</sup> Great distances were sometimes traveled for visits with friends or relatives and these sojourns were frequently of long duration.<sup>349</sup> The Barrows interchanged visits with their neighbors, made fashionable calls on occasion, and traveled many miles for longer vacations with their relatives in various parts of the state in southwestern Mississippi. Parties, and "frollics" were also much enjoyed.

These parties were for the most part informal, many originating on the spur of the moment and lasting until the partici-

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<sup>348</sup> Feb. 17, 1841.

<sup>349</sup> Mar. 24, 1840; June 16, 1841.

pants were tired from much dancing or until their digestive systems became overtaxed with much good food and fine wine. <sup>350</sup>

At one such party at Highland, Barrow remarked there was much "singing & noise & happiness," and that those present were "perfectly indifferent to the cares of this world." <sup>351</sup> Sometimes mock force was used to keep the party from disintegrating, and Barrow related the story of kidnapping a number of young ladies, bringing them to his house, and then summoning the neighbors for a party. As he told it, "would not Let any Leave . got a violin player from Town 'Norman' Let them rest & knap during the day some times. playing smut - at dark began to dance, at 12 Oclock their consciences made them refuse to dance any Longer, it Being Saturday night, to punish them fastened the doors 'till near two O<sup>k</sup>" some blew the Lights out others tried to get out at the windows, Any thing, but dance they would'ent, retired at 2 Ok all nearly broke down, never have seen a collection so sudden and so perfectly free easy & happy for two days & nights, All restraint thrown aside never enjoyed myself as much." The next morning, Barrow continued, "Many Long & weary Looking faces sore feet &c. this morning, however all regretting it was Sunday, none more than myself, without preparation it Began, plenty to Eate & drink is all they wanted, evry thing put down & each one helped himself When he wanted it." House parties of this nature were not unusual at Highland and they aided greatly in relieving the loneliness

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<sup>350</sup> May 13, 15, 1841.

<sup>351</sup> June 8, 1841.

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of plantation life.

The playing of practical jokes usually accompanied such informal amusements. On April 1, 1844, Barrow sent one of his nieces an empty box, whereupon she informed the relatives that he was seriously ill, a story which resulted in some worry on the part of his kinsmen.<sup>353</sup> Occasionally the gatherings assumed the nature of a barbacue usually followed by a dance. With few exceptions they came at various holidays and proved such a pleasure that Barrow once wrote, "had a very fine Barbacue & Dance. . . . Ladys verry much pleased."<sup>354</sup>

The formal ball had its place in Barrow society. The master and mistress of the plantation attended functions of this type at neighboring planters and in St. Francisville or Bayou Sara. In his Diary Barrow made numerous citations to the enjoyable times that were had tripping the light fantastic toe to the tuneful strains of musicians imported for the occasion from St. Francisville, Natchez, or even New Orleans.<sup>355</sup> Following "a party" given at Captain Howell's plantation home Barrow remarked, "danced 'till day light verry pleasant - Evry one appearing to enjoy themselves."<sup>356</sup> Another time, however, he was "disappointed in going to the Party last night at Mr Halls" at St. Francisville.<sup>357</sup> Though the balls usually

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352 Jan. 7, 8, 9, 1842.

353 Apr. 1, 1844.

354 July 2, 4, 1838.

355 Feb. 22, 23, Mar. 5, 31, Dec. 21, 1841.

356 Feb. 12, 1839.

357 Mar. 10, 1841.



passed without incident there was at least one exception to the rule. He recorded, "Went to a Party Given by John Harbour at Douces. Great many there, verry pleasant not with standing some scoundrel stole my Gloves knife & cap out of my Buggy, Came Home bare headed."<sup>358</sup> At times, weddings occurred in the vicinity and balls usually followed. And there were occasions when the Barrows were not invited to the social runctions of the neighborhood, an oversight on the part of the hostesses which led the master of Highland to give vent to his feelings.<sup>359</sup> The enjoyment of the ball was varied at times with the performances of musicians at the plantations of neighbors or in town. Barrow himself imported a "Poleander" to repair some music boxes and to perform for his family and his visiting neighbors.<sup>360</sup> Serenading was also an enjoyable pastime in which Barrow and his family participated, and it is to be little doubted that many happy evenings were spent in going from one, plantation to another singing beneath the starlit Felicianana sky, these glorious old songs of the period.<sup>361</sup>

Horseback riding and driving were amusements in which the whole family at Highland participated and in which the master found much enjoyment. Good saddle horses were always kept ready for the use of members of the home clan and the buggy and carriage were kept in readiness for longer journeys. In

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<sup>358</sup> Dec. 23, 1840.

<sup>359</sup> Oct. 8, 1840.

<sup>360</sup> Apr. 8, 1841.

<sup>361</sup> May 19, 1842.

1837 Barrow recorded that he purchased a fine saddle horse in  
 New Orleans for the sum of \$200.<sup>362</sup> Two years later he paid  
 \$230 for a riding animal evidently of extra fine quality.<sup>363</sup>  
 In 1844, he purchased another for \$100,<sup>364</sup> so it is apparent  
 that his supply was kept within the needs of the plantation.  
 But Barrow was too shrewd not to lose the possibilities of an  
 occasional good trade, and in 1837 he traded his saddle horse,  
 "Chrurkey" to a neighbor for upwards of 50 head of cattle.<sup>365</sup>  
 Eighteen forty-one saw the purchase of "a pair of Dove col-  
 oured carriage horses," of good quality and well matched, for  
 which the sum of \$400 was paid.<sup>366</sup> Two years' prior to this  
 purchase, he had added a new buggy at the cost of \$285.<sup>367</sup>

The picture of the southern hunt of the ante-bellum per-  
 iod has almost disappeared from the recollections of that fab-  
 ulous era. The crisp early morn, the yelps of the hounds,  
 the well dressed men and women, the prancing horses, the slow  
 canter across the fields, and then the excitement of the chase--  
 these elements have faded from the stage of southern activity.  
 All forms of hunting were enjoyed. Society hunted the fox and  
 the deer, the planters in toto hunted deer, bear, wild fowl,  
 and even the lowly rabbit did not entirely escape the fangs of  
 the dogs nor the shots from the sportsmen's gun. Hunting at  
 night by torch-light was a favorite sport of the Feliciana

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362 Dec. 2, 1837.

363 Barrow Accts.

364 Ibid.

365 Sept. 3, 1837.

366 Nov. 15, 1841.

367 Barrow Accts.

entry, whether it was the deer, raccoon, o'possum, or wild turkey. Many of the hunts were for the "men folks" only, but on some occasions the women kept pace with the stronger sex.

Though Virginia was the traditional home of formal fox hunting in the South, the planters of West Feliciana were not neophytes at following the hounds. Almost from the beginning of his planting career, Barrow kept a large pack of blooded dogs. The number of grown animals varied during the late 1830's from eleven to seventeen not including several growing pups. <sup>368</sup> From 1837 they were housed in a specially built kennel, well arranged for canine comfort. <sup>369</sup> That Barrow was

known to the fox hunting world is evidenced by the fact that in 1830 J. S. Skinner, editor of the American Turf Register & Sporting Magazine, sent from New Orleans a gift of two spotted registered pups. <sup>370</sup> Barrow made visits to other parishes to follow the hounds but at times returned with a poor opinion of the ability of the dogs as well as of the manners of the people. <sup>371</sup> In 1845, he almost decided to give up fox hunting as there was great difficulty in starting the chase under seven or eight miles of the plantation. <sup>372</sup>

Deer hunting or driving was a more popular sport with the Feliciana planters than fox hunting, and, while fashionable

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<sup>368</sup> Sept. 28, 1836; Jan. 28, 1838.

<sup>369</sup> Jan. 6, 1837.

<sup>370</sup> Jan. 22, 1839.

<sup>371</sup> Dec. 17, 19, 1840.

<sup>372</sup> Feb. 1, 1845.

hunts were not rare, the informal hunt was a much more common  
 diversion.<sup>373</sup> Barrow was intensely interested in deer hunting,  
 as it was perhaps his favorite sport, and he was present on  
 many occasions. The venison gave variety to the table of the  
 planter, and his antlers graced the mantles of the living rooms  
 at Highland. The hunts ordinarily passed without incident,  
 but occasionally accidents occurred. Barrow recorded that one  
 time the standers were placed "in sight of each other Rufus  
 Howell standing within 20 y<sup>ds</sup>. of Dawson 'open' [ed] up and  
 fired at him for a Deer - he was sitting down reading Rufus  
took the paper back book for Deers years - put 3 buck shot in  
 him one in his thigh one in the leg & one in the arm below  
 the elbow. but for his arm would have been Killed - had con-  
 siderable trouble in getting him home."<sup>374</sup> A wounded animal  
 sometimes charged the riders, goring both horses and men.<sup>375</sup>  
 The hunters at times became separated, and a Mr. Pain from the  
 island of Madeira was once lost for some hours in the Feliciana  
 hills while searching parties explored the region.<sup>376</sup> But  
 the deer hunt had a definite place in the sporting life of the  
 planter and not until the eighteen hundred fifties did the  
 game so diminish in numbers as to make the sport lose its  
 exciting place in plantation life. The hunters however, were  
 not out for deer alone. At times, wild cattle were killed,<sup>377</sup>

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<sup>373</sup> May 2, 1840.

<sup>374</sup> Apr. 21, 1840.

<sup>375</sup> Nov. 24, 1838.

<sup>376</sup> Sept. 27, 1838.

<sup>377</sup> Sept. 23, 1838.

bears were hunted from horseback as well as trapped in the  
 timber tracts,<sup>378</sup> alligators in the swamps were hunted by  
 planters on foot with packs of trained dogs,<sup>379</sup> and all the  
 while the youth of the country was learning the management  
 of both horse and gun by hunting the fast fleeing cotton-  
 tail.<sup>380</sup>

Barrow was a fisherman as well as a follower of the  
 hounds. The terrain of West Feliciana was conducive to those  
 denizens of the stream so eagerly sought after by the followers  
 of Izaak Walton. The Mississippi offered some inducement, but,  
 for the most part, the streams and lakes of the region were the  
 chief attraction. Ratliff's Lake, a few miles away, and Big and  
 Little Bayou Sara offered favorite sport for angling. Most of  
 the fishing excursions were informal affairs. As Barrow so elo-  
 quently described in his Diary on April 27, 1844, "Went Fishing  
 to Ratliff's Lake. never saw just such looking creatures - Bennet  
 Robert H. j<sup>nr</sup> Robert J. E McDermott H. Lyons P. Butler  
 D. Johnson - the muddist & dirtiest set of beings in exist-  
 ence - some without hats coats suspenders - shirts partly  
 torn off &c."<sup>381</sup> At times stimulants were carried and the  
 "gentlemen" occasionally imbibed too freely. Barrow said on  
 one such occasion: "have'nt seen as drunken a set in a great  
 While."<sup>382</sup> But the fashionable fishing party had its place

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378 Sept. 19, 1838; Apr. 22, 1842.

379 Sept. 5, 1838; May 8, 1841; July 8, 10, 1843.

380 Mar. 24, 1844.

381 July 13, 1838.

382 July 10, 1841.

in the sports of West Feliciana and on these trips both men and women tried their skill. Some of the parties, after a day spent along the placid waters of some lake, adjourned to a nearby plantation where refreshments and clean clothing were waiting and where the call of the dance was irresistible.<sup>383</sup> Many fish fries added to the enjoyment of the catch and the old art of canoeing was not forgotten during those carefree days.<sup>384</sup> At times, trips were made in river boats owned by planters or chartered for the excursion. The party would make a leisurely journey up or down the Mississippi to favorite angling places, a journey which sometimes lasted for several days.<sup>385</sup>

Such a sportsman as Harrow was also, and almost inevitably, interested in horse racing. From the beginning of his career until 1840, he was one of the most prominent racing men of his parish and of the state. He was the second largest stockholder in the St. Francisville Race Track located about one and a half miles northeast of that town, until he sold his interests in 1840 to Daniel Turnbull of Rosedown Plantation.<sup>386</sup> He was a prominent figure at New Orleans tracks and during the late eighteen hundred thirties was an official tixer at the Louisiana Jockey Club.<sup>387</sup> He made regular trips to the Crescent City for the spring and fall races, and, though he occasionally lost money, he ordinarily bet small sums and

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<sup>383</sup> May 13, 1833.

<sup>384</sup> Nov. 24, 1845.

<sup>385</sup> Nov. 18, 1841; Sept. 30, Nov. 30, 1842; Nov. 17, 1843; Feb. 10, 18, 1845.

<sup>386</sup> Notarial Record, Vol. I, pp. 192-193.

<sup>387</sup> Spirit of the Times, Dec. 29, 1838.

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more often won than lost. He enjoyed the sport keenly and protested vehemently on one trip when a "Violent tooth  
389  
ach" prevented his attendance at the tracks. He was included in that circle of men of West Feliciana of whom one sports writer said, "On such men . . . depends the turf in  
390  
the future."

In his racing activities, Barrow was associated with his brother, William R. Barrow, who was even more interested and who invested more in the sport. Together they bought and sold, trained, and raced horses on the various Mississippi and  
391  
Louisiana courses from Natchez to New Orleans. After Barrow's retirement from the field in 1840, he continued to hold small interests in some of his brother's racing stock. Most of their activities centered about the tracks at St. Francisville and Bayou Sara and their entries won a full share of the  
392  
purses.

At least two trainers served the brothers. In 1837 they secured the services of Morris E. Boyles. He was a young man, but had already experienced some success as a trainer of "Fanny  
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Bell," one of the noted horses of the district. He remained

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388 Nov. 30, Dec. 20, 1838; Barrow Accts.

389 Mar. 20, 1837.

390 Spirit of the Times, Feb. 2, 1839.

391 Dec. 22, 1838; Apr. 27, Aug. 2, 1839; Dec. 12, 1843.

392 Apr. 19, 20, 1837; May 3, 4, 5, 6, Nov. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 1838; Apr. 24, 25, 1839.

393 The Spirit of the Times, Mar. 10, 1838, published the following concerning the young trainer, "Mr. B. still employs her trainer, who is a very worthy as well as a very young man, thinking probably that it is preferable to let him work away at Fanny, than 'fly to others whom he knows not of.' Boyles was 'caught young,' is fast improving, and will no doubt 'come out' one of these days, a second chance, and we hope the arrangement will prove mutually advantageous."

in the service of the brothers for several years, although in 1838 Barrow added another trainer to his staff, a man named Tisdale.<sup>394</sup> Most of Boyles' work was with running horses,<sup>395</sup> but in 1843 Barrow added at least one pacer to his stable. Late in 1839, Barrow decided to quit the track, and with the exception of Josh Bell, sold all his racing stock to his brother, who continued the family traditions in the sports world.<sup>396</sup>

Barrow's most famous horse was Josh Bell. He was purchased in 1838, probably from a Mr. Boswell, for the sum of \$6000.<sup>397</sup> He was brought down the Mississippi to Highland Plantation and was housed at the Highland stables,<sup>398</sup> and after a short period of training there,<sup>399</sup> was entered in the New Orleans races at the Metairie Course where he won "handily," though Barrow remarked that there had been "poor running generally."<sup>400</sup> The spring of 1839 saw Josh Bell winning his greatest laurels. He was entered in the March races at the Metairie, Louisiana, and Eclipse Courses in New Orleans and won some great races, probably the most notable being against Waggoner.<sup>401</sup> Barrow called Waggoner "the best Horse in the South,"<sup>402</sup> and was greatly pleased with his thoroughbred, for he wrote, "I believe Jos Bell

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394 Feb. 7, Nov. 8, 1837; Oct. 1, 1838; Spirit of the Times, Mar. 10, 1838, Mar. 12, 1839.

395 Dec. 12, 1843.

396 Sept. 2, 1839.

397 May 5, 1838; Spirit of the Times, Mar. 17, 1838, Jan. 8, 1842; Barrow Accts.

398 May 10, 1841.

399 May 3, Sept. 6, 1838.

400 Dec. 20, 1838; Spirit of the Times, Dec. 29, 1838.

401 Spirit of the Times, Jan. 8, 1842.

402 Mar. 12, Apr. 1, 2, 1839.



is the Best Horse in the United States - First rate any distance."<sup>403</sup>

On April 26, however, Josh Bell pulled a tendon in running against Kavenaugh. Barrow wrote that he was "ruined

for Ever,"<sup>404</sup> and even though his leg did improve, he never again regained his former brilliance. He was retired to stud

at the plantation, though for two years he stood at the plan-

tation of a Mr. Chainey in East Feliciana Parish.<sup>405</sup> Shortly

following the accident Barrow sold all of his racing stock to his brother, William R. Barrow, "'reserving Josh Bell' for

\$5500."<sup>406</sup> In 1841, he offered the animal to Fields and Ward of Kentucky at \$4000, but they declined to purchase at that

price.<sup>407</sup> From time to time, reports were circulated that Josh

Bell was being returned to active competition, The Spirit of the Times publishing on January 8, 1842, "It affords us great pleasure to state that Wm. R. Barrow, Esq. of St. Francisville, La., is about to bring his celebrated horse Josh Bell, on the Turf again, after being three years in the breeding stud. His

game leg is now apparently well."<sup>408</sup> But "Josh" had served his

403 Feb. 18, 1839.

404 Apr. 26, 1839.

405 July 23, 1845. The following advertisement appeared in the Louisiana Chronicle, August 21, 1841, "Josh Bell. Will stand at the stable of the subscriber, the ensuing year, and will be let to mares at the low price of fifty dollars the season. The cash or a good note must accompany each mare. No liability for accidents. B. H. Barrow."

406 Sept. 2, 1839.

407 Mar. 7, 1841.

408 The Spirit of the Times, Jan. 8, 1842, carried the following "Josh Bell coming out again! It affords us great pleasure to state that Wm. R. Barrow, Esq., of St. Francisville, La., is about to bring his celebrated horse Josh Bell, on the Turf again, after being three years in the breeding stud. His game leg is now apparently well. . . . Josh Bell was one of the best

master well and was retired, as far as the records show, to the joys of the meadows and the open fields.

Barrow was also interested, with William R. Barrow, in the ownership of "Fanny Bell," a horse purchased in 1837 for \$3000.<sup>409</sup> After winning some local races in the fall of 1837, she was entered in New Orleans the following spring.<sup>410</sup> A growing blindness, however, forced the owners to withdraw her from active competition. On March 10, 1838, The Spirit of the Times noted, "She has been, and is still, in the hands of Morris H. Boyles, at St. Francisville, La., who thinks he can bring her round again, she having been seriously amiss for months. . . . We . . . found her almost blind, and apparently so weak that she could not have twitched a shad off a gridiron."<sup>411</sup> Three months later, Barrow stated, "Fanny Bell 'Mare' gone blind - doubtfull whether she recovers,"<sup>412</sup> a prediction which evidently came true.

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horses of his year. In March, 1839, he beat Wagner the 1st test in a four miles race at New Orleans, on the Eclipse Course; the next week he walked over for a purse of \$1500, Three mile heats, on the Louisiana Course, and in the following week won a purse of \$1200, at Three mile heats, on the Metairie Course."

<sup>409</sup> Apr. 26, 1837.

<sup>410</sup> Spirit of the Times, Apr. 7, 1838.

<sup>411</sup> Ibid., Mar. 10, 1838.

<sup>412</sup> June 17, 1838.

### Bennet H. Barrow: Strictly Personal

The study of the psychology of those agricultural entrepreneurs of the Old South is yet to be written. The planter's habits, at home and abroad, have been amply described, but, with the exception of studies pertaining to his education, his literature, and his general cultural attributes, little has been written. His thoughts, his reactions to the problems of planting, his philosophy of life, remain, for the most part, an unexplored realm of Southern history. The planter's interests centered about the cultivation and management of his broad acres. His amusements were ordinarily found both at hand and, with the exception of occasional trips to resorts in the South or to the North, he stayed close to his manor. The personal life and habits of Bennet H. Barrow were not dissimilar from those of the great majority of planters in the parish of West Feliciana.

Planting was Barrow's sole occupation. During the decade and a half under discussion, it is to be noticed that he often became disgusted with plantation operations, and, as agriculturists in most sections are wont to do, he wished that he might change his location. On one occasion, he wrote that he would like to sell and move from the country, though he ad-

mitted that he knew not where to go, reserving that knowledge<sup>413</sup> only to the Almighty himself. During the early eighteen hundred forties, the fertile lands of Texas beckoned, like the Sirens of Greek mythology, and neighbors returning from trips into that fabled land told tales that gave many of the Felicitanians "the Texas Fever."<sup>414</sup> At other times, various regions fired his imagination. In 1841, the crop of that year having been unsatisfactory, Barrow wrote, "would sell my Land if I could, & move on the Low Lands [of the] Mississippi or some of its tributaries."<sup>415</sup> But this dissatisfied planter never realized the burning desire to sell his land at an adequate price and depart from the gentle slopes of the Little Bayou Sara. His constant indebtedness was the source of much worry and many were his promises of saving for the future, promises which were quickly broken when coveted racing stock tempted his sporting nature, or when the pleasures of New Orleans called during the winter season.<sup>416</sup>

On August 16, 1839, he wrote, "I Bennet H. Barrow do certify that I the said Bennet have got the meanest crop in this neighbourhood & the meanest by far I ever had - been absent too often - would not care how mean it was if I was not in Debt - & last accounts from England verry unfavourable - two thirds of the people must be ruined - should the times continue beyond this season."<sup>417</sup> Except for its liveliness of style,

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413 May 6, 1839.

414 Feb. 19, 1841.

415 Sept. 8, 1841.

416 Feb. 2, 1840.

417 Aug. 16, 1839.

there was nothing unusual about this entry, as he always worried about crops. Though, at times, neighbors and friends commented upon the planter's crop as "remarkable," compliments<sup>418</sup> justly voiced, there were years that saw "more rain more sickness poorest Crops & general distress than any year" he<sup>419</sup> ever knew. There were occasions when, upon returning from a visit to a neighbor's plantation, he would write, "am perfectly disgusted with evry thing on the place."<sup>420</sup> And he ended one such entry by wishing "evry one I've had to pay<sup>421</sup> money for was in Hell."

The sweet, however, was apparently well mixed with the bitter. Many were his pleasant observations on planting. Every year he noted the arrival of the martins whose coming<sup>422</sup> was evidently a favorable omen for the future. On the whole, his slaves caused little trouble and on many occasions they highly pleased "The Master of Highland." Minor troublesome incidents were laid away in the realm of dimming memory and even the burning of a cotton warehouse and gin, together with cotton, to the value of over \$5,000, was taken philosophically.

Barrow was not a great traveler, but, to him, as to many planters of the lower Mississippi valley, the "Crescent City" was a mecca, and most of his extended trips away from the

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<sup>418</sup> July 12, 1843.

<sup>419</sup> Jan. 1, 1844.

<sup>420</sup> May 5, 20, 1844.

<sup>421</sup> Apr. 9, 1844.

<sup>422</sup> Mar. 11, 1839; Mar. 1, 1840; Mar. 4, 1842; Apr. 8, 1844; Mar. 6, 1845.

plantation were to New Orleans. As he cared little for formal society, his excursions were usually made for the purpose of entering his race horses at the various courses. On such trips to New Orleans, the larger steamboats then plying the Mississippi were patronized, but, for the traditional southern visits which the planter took with his family, the carriage or the prancing saddle horse was pressed into service. After beginning his career as a planter, Barrow made only one sojourn in the North. During the summer of 1834, he and his elder brother made a slave-buying journey to Virginia, returning to West Feliciana with an additional supply of labor for the plantation. He often planned and hoped that he might visit the famous Northern watering places or the resorts of the Southern mountains, but he apparently never found the opportunity for such travels. <sup>423</sup>

Barrow confided to his Diary many of his private opinions concerning those with whom he associated. That he did not expect these opinions to be published to the world goes without saying, but now, after the passing of a century, those opinions aid the student of Southern history in forming some idea of the psychology of one of the aristocratic planters of the Old South. These opinions concerned not only his neighbors but the members of the Barrow family. On March 11, 1840, he took occasion to write, "Mrs King & Martha T. both used to say 'When I was about 14 y<sup>rs</sup> old' that no good would ever come of me - be hung go to jail Quit Encouraging

for an Orphan - and merely because of a boy of my age 14 y<sup>rs</sup> old could not appreciate their wiser views, and like great many boys disposed to have fun, without any thing vicious in its <sup>424</sup>nature." His business relations with his kin were on the whole pleasant, but he was tempted to write on two occasions of his brother, Ruffin. In 1839, he noted "Ruffins trainer M<sup>r</sup> Tisdale returned from Kentucky - bringing with him 19 beautifull dogs 5 intended for me lost or died - strange that only nine should have died." <sup>425</sup> And six years later, "Ruffin hauled seed enough to plant two 3<sup>ds</sup> of his crop without returning me a seed - as I expected - Last year closes my folly - have been eternally waiting on other people or trusting <sup>426</sup>to their own sensibilities." But his general opinion of the Barrow clan was noted on March 11, 1840, "Excepting Mrs King & Martha Turnbull I know of none of the Barrows of my own relation, that are not liberal & honest, and are like families <sup>427</sup>ought to be united."

From time to time he recorded the following opinions of his neighbors, "A meaner man never lived," "A Mr Vadal staid all night with me last night a perfect Jack ass For & sark", "Mr. Colligan came down perfectly distrustd with him - too <sup>428</sup>familiar to live." Not given to making enemies, Barrow had at least one adversary in the community in Captain G.

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424 Mar. 13, 1840.

425 Oct. 19, 1839.

426 Apr. 3, 1845.

427 Mar. 11, 1840.

428 Nov. 30, 1837; Oct. 10, 1839; July 2, 1840.

Howell. That he had more or less constant trouble with Howell is evident, though the actual causes of the altercations are left shrouded. He made every effort to show his feelings to the Howells, on one instance leaving one of them at a game stand. Another time, he wrote that he "tried every way to insult them," apparently with success, for an open break came shortly afterwards.<sup>429</sup> Not all his remarks are disparaging, but reflect the life and morality of the times, as when he wrote on October 31, 1840, "Col. A. G. Barrow D. L. Johnson W. Rucker Jno. C. Brady Jno. Joor & George Joor here last night went it on champaign till one O. K. to night."<sup>430</sup>

Barrow's persistence at endorsing caused him much worry and great financial losses. At times when he was forced to come to the assistance of an unfortunate brother planter he made little complaint, but on at least one occasion he became exasperated at J. Desmont, who "skipped the country," leaving his surety to pay debts of a large figure. Barrow's remarks on this occurrence are best left to the imagination of the reader. Some five years later, his endorsing troubles led him to write, "wish evry one I've had to pay money for was in Hell," but this sentiment evidently did not give him complete catharsis, for a month later he scrawled, "sincerely wish evry raceal & persons causing me to be in Debt in Hell riding a red<sup>431</sup> hot iron." From time to time, he wrote sound advice to his

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429 Sept. 13, Nov. 20, 1839; Apr. 21, 1840; Aug. 11, 1843.

430 Oct. 31, 1840.

431 Apr. 9, May 5, 1844.



children on the evils of endorsing, but that he himself ever  
 followed this good counsel is not evident. <sup>432</sup>

Class consciousness was one of the distinctive attributes of the old plantation regime in the South. Barrow was typical of his class, and his attitude of superiority was shown in a hundred instances in his Diary. At times when his neighbors were less discriminating toward those of African blood, he  
 never failed to show his displeasure. <sup>433</sup> He was extremely critical of those who came from the North and often gave vent to his feelings. In February, 1844, he was visited by two "D. Yankees" who had come to see his overseer and he noted especially "the impudence of their section of country," finally giving them a "hint to Leave that no southerner would mistake -  
 ordered their horses Back." <sup>434</sup> He apparently made it a rule to be cautious of strangers, "to Northerners in particular," but this prejudice, however, did not prevent him from being sus-

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<sup>432</sup> On Jan. 1, 1840, he wrote, "My course will be a Lesson to my children - that is never to loan What is not your own - if you owe any thing pay it first - I borrowed money for other persons 'friend' & now have to pay it over. Mind Who professes to be your friend - you see a man working hard & economizing help him, but see a fellow dressing fine, using fine language & they are What is called clever fellows - let them pass". Again on January 21, "never Endorse at any rate for a man Extravagant & careless in buisness - nor would be gentleman".  
<sup>433</sup> An excellent example occurred on Nov. 6, 1839. Barrow wrote, "Went driving yesterday - & never was so put to a stump in my life - M<sup>r</sup> Jno. E. Barrow (a young Tennessee scamp) invites the two M<sup>r</sup> Howells over to join us - men possessed of no feelings of the gentleman - I thought this bad enough - but M<sup>r</sup> Riddel must invite T Purnells Mulatto boy with him & when at dinner handed him some thing to Eat which was sufficient invitation for him to join &c. . . . Respect for no one shall prevent my doing my duty in such a case again - so goes this World - made the hunt as little interesting as I could".  
<sup>434</sup> Apr. 26, 1843; Feb. 26, 1844.

pected by his mother-in-law of having aided "a Yankey" in the<sup>435</sup>  
conquest of his young and beautiful sister-in-law.

Barrow was only mildly interested in the national and state political questions of the time, and then only to the extent to which they affected his personal interests. The three questions which interested him most were corruption in public office, the annexation of Texas, and the slavery question. He laid the blame for the first at the feet of Andrew Jackson,<sup>436</sup> due to his destruction of the United States bank; Texas, of course, he thought a highly desirable territory which should<sup>437</sup> be admitted into the Union; and slavery was an institution which should not be disturbed by either the states of the North<sup>438</sup> or the Federal government. In national politics, he was normally a Whig, voting for Hugh Lawson White in 1836 and William Henry Harrison in 1840, but the Texas question led him<sup>439</sup> in 1844 to bolt the party and vote for James K. Polk.

He mildly supported the Native American movement but vigorously<sup>440</sup> opposed the Loco Foco wing of the Democrat party. Never a strong party man, he showed but mild interest in the state politics of his day, supporting the individual candi-<sup>441</sup> dates whom he considered the best fitted for the position.

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<sup>435</sup> June 2, 1839.

<sup>436</sup> Nov. 6, 1839.

<sup>437</sup> June 20, Aug. 26, 1844; Mar. 6, 1845.

<sup>438</sup> Jan. 14, 1838; Sept. 24, 1841.

<sup>439</sup> Nov. 7, 8, 1836; Jan. 1, June 23, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, 1840; May 7, Oct. 2, 24, Nov. 1, 4, 1844.

<sup>440</sup> Oct. 10, 1839; July 4, 1840.

<sup>441</sup> May 22, 1837; July 2, 1838; July 6, 7, 1840; Sept. 14, 1841; July 4, 1842; July 2, Aug. 25, 1844; Nov. 3, 1845; Jan. 19, 21, 23, 1846.

Despite his apparent lack of interest in national and state politics, he held the typically Southern view that the holding of local office was a public duty, and, during the period from 1836 until his death in 1854, Barrow served in several capacities for the parish. In 1844, he began a three-year period of service on the Police Jury, a term which was marked by neither over-diligence nor extreme lassitude in his attention to duty, though it must be recorded that he was fined several times for failure to attend meetings.<sup>442</sup> During the years, 1840, 1842, 1845, and 1846, he served as Overseer of the Fifteenth Road District in his parish and, from the existing records, evidently performed his duties to the satisfaction of the Police Jury.<sup>443</sup> In 1843, he was appointed one of three overseers of the poor for the tenth ward,<sup>444</sup> and, for at least three years, in 1836, 1844, and 1845, he sat on the Grand Jury.<sup>445</sup>

Barrow's cultural life was similar to that of the other planters of his region and station in life. He subscribed to newspapers and magazines, he bought books, he attended concerts at St. Francisville or Bayou Sara, he invited artists journeying through the country to his country estate, he gave his children dancing lessons, and he hired tutors for their private instruction, and he had his portrait painted. In addition to

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<sup>442</sup> June 3, 1844; June 2, Sept. 27, 1845; Minutes of the Police Jury, Vol. II, pp. 88, 90, 91, 92, 103, 104, 106, 107, 109, 111.

<sup>443</sup> Minutes of the Police Jury, Vol. II, pp. 4, 48, 101, 122.

<sup>444</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 72.

<sup>445</sup> Dec. 7, 1836; May 8, 1844; Dec. 1, 1845

the local newspapers, he subscribed to the Charleston Mercury, the Woodville (Miss.) Republican, and the Spirit of the Times, a sporting magazine.<sup>446</sup> The inventory of his estate lists in addition to two book cases, books valued at \$100,<sup>447</sup> these including Botta's Washington, and Johnson's Life of Henry Clay.<sup>448</sup> In the education of his children, he was extremely critical. In January, 1841, he wrote to New Orleans for a tutor and secured the services of a Miss Mayhew. But the new teacher did not satisfy the Master of Highland, and she remained at the plantation only three months.<sup>449</sup> In the fall of the same year, he hired a Mr. Hulbert from New York. His relations with this young man were evidently pleasant, for, in 1846, the tutor was still in service at a salary of \$500 per year.<sup>450</sup> Barrow's portrait was evidently painted by the renowned T. B. Thorpe, "The Bee Hunter." His accounts for 1841 show that he paid the artist the sum of \$150 for the painting of his likeness. Later, his portrait was taken by the same individual and, after some misunderstanding over the price of the frames, during which altercation Mr. Thorpe "acted very suspicious," the matter was settled to the satisfaction of both parties.<sup>451</sup>

Religion was not a subject in which Bennet H. Barrow was intensely interested, a fact which is attested to by his in-

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446 Barrow Accts.

447 Inventory Record, Vol. G, pp. 135-143.

448 Barrow Accts.

449 Jan. 27, Feb. 12, Mar. 9, May 5, 1841; Barrow Accts., 1841.

450 Oct. 17, 1841; June 21, 1845; Barrow Accts.

451 May 4, 1841; May 7, 1842; Barrow Accts.

frequent church attendance,<sup>452</sup> and on at least one occasion,<sup>453</sup>  
 he indulged in an outburst against the wearers of the cloth.  
 On his mantel piece at Highland he kept a "whatnot" in the form  
 of a "nick Bone of a horse" painted "'the natural representation  
 of a Priest or Preacher praying,'" an ornament which brought  
 forth stormy protest from many of his friends. But Barrow dis-  
 missed their objections with the statement that some people  
 thought that a man couldn't "be honest unless a proffessor of  
 Religion - in other words a church goer, Bah!"<sup>454</sup> His most  
 forceful statement regarding his religious beliefs was made  
 shortly after the death of his wife in 1845, when he wrote, "the  
 children all seem happy, so ordained by nature, God will be done  
 but sincerely wish things were as they were, evry Where I turn  
 I miss her. dreary is my lot, the world is cold and selfish,  
 if I could only Believe we were to meet hereafter would give  
 me great relive."<sup>455</sup> But these manifestations of agnosticism  
 did not prevent him from contributing rather liberally to the  
 church.<sup>456</sup> The man should not be judged entirely by his state-  
 ments regarding formal religion. His personal moral code was  
 set at a high level,<sup>457</sup> and one entry in his Diary eloquently  
 speaks, "A. Harralson died yesterday I shall loose by him  
 \$1300 - his family will be dependent on a negro woman I have a  
 mortgage on - as a matter of course cannot take her."<sup>458</sup> And

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452 Feb. 15, May 14, 1841.

453 June 1, 4, 1841.

454 Jan. 31, 1842.

455 Oct. 23, 1845.

456 Barrow Accts.

457 Dec. 28, 1837; July 29, Sept. 8, 1839.

458 Oct. 8, 1839.

his statement of April 20, 1845, "so far have never injured  
 any human to my knowledge,"<sup>459</sup> gives the reader a fairly  
 accurate idea of the moral fibre of the man.

The complete story of Bennet H. Barrow as a planter of  
 West Feliciana will never be written. Time has cast her mantle  
 over that far distant day when the plantation regime held sway  
 over that famed land. Some aspects, however, of Barrow's life  
 have been indicated; his lands, his crops and business dealings,  
 his slaves and their toils and joys on the old plantation, his  
 sports and amusements. And lastly, something of Barrow, the  
 man, has been pictured. He has told his story briefly, sketchi-  
 ly, but on the whole accurately, in his Diary. Intimate de-  
 tails he told on occasion, details which reveal the inner man,  
 so well illustrated by two brief entries. Both show him in the  
 midst of his family enjoying the serene home life of the plan-  
 tation: On September 22, 1838, he wrote, "Here I am sitting  
 with the Baby in my lap . . . Emily criticising the History of  
 Georgia - Caroline and John at all kinds of Mischief"; and  
 again on August 23, of the following year, "Attempting to Learn  
 James & John their book - had rather drive a Team of mules . . .  
 John looks one way & thinks another."<sup>460</sup> How true of life and  
 of Bennet H. Barrow, planter of the Old South.

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459 Apr. 20, 1845.

460 Sept. 22, 1838; Aug. 23, 1839.

1833 - 1836

August 1 1833 Commenced recording - on the 24 this month.  
August

24 Commenced Picking Cotten<sup>1</sup> rainy weather - Cotten  
Clear of blossoms

25 Cool

30 Weather pleasant for some days - Shipped 50 Bales Cotten

October 1 Gathered 55 Loads of corn out of Race Track &  
shed cut<sup>2</sup> - weather continues fine

9 130 Bales out - Clear cool mornings Cotten selling  
from 16 to 18 cts - shipped Forty Bales

14 Overseeing myself turned A Fair off<sup>3</sup> worthless  
creature - 100 Bales pressed

16 130 Bales pressed

21 Frost this morning - Killed everything

29 Finished Picking upper side plantation - one hundred  
and sixty Bales out

November 1 White Frosty mornings - one hundred and ten  
Bales shipped - made this year one hundred and ninety Bales  
cotton - 140 Loads corn

January 1 1834 Verry cold weather.

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<sup>1</sup> For explanation of plantation terms, see glossary.

<sup>2</sup> See list of fields and cuts in glossary.

<sup>3</sup> In 1838, after having tried several overseers, Barrow began the personal management of his plantation. It will be noted that on Jan. 19, 1837, he employed a Mr. Bailey as overseer and discharged him the same day.

5 rolling Logs snow remained for some days

August 1 Absent from Home this summer - went on to the North<sup>4</sup> - Fine Cotton year - made two hundred and sixty Bales

August 20 1855 raining evry day since the 2<sup>d</sup> of June

24 Com'ced picking Cotton to day

25 Appearance of rain, wind South

26 Hard rain this morning Cool wind from the North

27 Morning cool - severe storm at 12 Oclock - from the South West

28 Morning Clear - evening Cloudy - cool

29 Clear and pleasant - wind South

30 Clear pleasant - few Forms on cotton

31 Fine rain

September 1 rainy

5 Cloudy warm for some days

8 Cloudy and cool - sickly

10 Cloudy cool shiped 30 Bales Same time 1834 50 shiped

13 Clear cool weather Cotton much improved

16 Cloudy cool shiped 56 Bales

17 Cool and showery.

19 Clear and cold Wind North

24 Clear pleasant - 100 Bales out

October 1 Clear pleasant fine picking 120 Bales out

4 Heavy rains to day - cool

5 one hundred and Forty Bales out

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<sup>4</sup> In 1834 Barrow and his brother, William R. Barrow, made an extended slave-buying trip to Virginia.



9 Clear Light Frost shipped 140 Bales  
16 Clear fine day. average 160 each a day.  
20 180 Bales out - cotton much injured by heavy rains  
 since 17<sup>th</sup>  
29 Fine weather for picking Cotton 184 B. pressed  
November 1 Cloudy warm  
4 Hard rain to day  
5 rainy day  
8 rainy day cool 225 B<sup>ls</sup> out  
12 Clear and pleasant  
15 Cloudy warm  
16 raining  
19 Showery day  
24 Clear verry cold  
26 Cloudy cold 240 Bls. out great quaintity to pick  
December 1 Clear and pleasant  
6 Clear cold  
9 Some rain warm  
11 rainy cold  
14 Clear pleasant shipped 30 B<sup>ls</sup>  
18 Clear warm 300 B<sup>ls</sup> out  
20 rainy day  
22 Clear cool - 50 hands 310 out two cribs of corn  
 22 by 22 feet. 11 feet high one & half sqaure - 35 or 40 Bls  
 to pick  
24 Cloudy rain at night  
February 1 1836 Weather good since Christmass  
9 Clear Frost

- 11 raining since yesterday
- 29 from Home since the Eleventh com'ced planting corn
- March 1 rainy day
- 4 Clear Finished planting corn
- 5 run four furrows Home place<sup>5</sup>
- 9 Heavy wind and rain
- 12 Clear Finished running four furrows
- 19 Some rain
- 20 rainy day
- 29 warm day
- 31 raining Cotton selling from 15 to 22 cts - Pork \$18  
& 23 Barrel
- April 1 warm
- 3 Finished breaking out middles
- 5 rain yesterday. Planting cotton
- 6 Clear Finished planting upper side plantation
- 8 Finished planting G<sup>n</sup> place<sup>6</sup>
- 9 Finished planting Cotton windy
- 11 Clear cool ploughing corn
- 13 Clear cotton coming up.
- 14 Finished seeding corn eight inches high looks well -  
working corn
- 19 Finished moulding corn
- 20 Com'ced barring off cotton

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5 Homestead, later called Highland plantation.

6 The Gibson place was a six hundred fifty acre tract joining Highland plantation which was purchased by Barrow in 1838.

23 Clear returned from the Races at St Francisville<sup>7</sup> -  
corn half Leg high

25 Finished scraping and barring off upper side pl'tion.  
"Fills son" Jerry Come in runaway. 4 weakes

27 Finished scraping G.<sup>n</sup> place - corn looks badly - too  
thick cotten two Leaves

29 rainy day Finished scraping Cotten scraping seven  
days and half

May 1 First Clear day for some time

4 Cloudy Finished barring off Cotten Breakfast - mould-  
ing corn second time two feet high

5 Finished scraping Cotten by 9 oclock. scraped Potatoes.  
Eleven days scp. Cotten - com'ced working corn six hundred  
of Cotten 150 of corn 60 Hands

7 Corn half thigh high

9 Clear cool com'ced moulding Cotten

11 Morning cool for the season

12 Finished moulding upper side pl.<sup>n</sup> by dinner weather  
fine - running round Cotten with four furrows

14 Clear and pleasant. Cotten looks badly - Moulding Cot-  
ten at G.<sup>n</sup> place since dinner

16 Com'ced moulding cotten at G.<sup>n</sup> place - warmer than it  
has been for ten days past - Left Home - Genl. Joor rec.<sup>d</sup> a  
fall from his Horse on yesterday died this evening<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The parish seat of West Feliciana Parish, about twelve miles southeast of Highland plantation. In 1850 it had a population of 405 people. Its port, Bayou Sara, had a population of 523 people. See J. D. B. DeBow, Statistical View of the United States, . . . Being a Compendium of the Seventh Census (Washington, 1854), pp. 340, 380. The St. Francisville Race Track was one of the finest in the United States and regular races were scheduled during the racing seasons. The Spirit of the Times, Apr. 14, 1838, carried the following description: "The St. Francisville track is from 12 to 16 feet over a mile, and as well adapted for quick time as the Union Course, Long Island. In location, soil, or beauty, it is not surpassed by any race track we ever saw."

<sup>8</sup> General John Joor, 1780-1836, father of Mrs. Barrow.

- 21 Returned Home. still working the G<sup>n</sup> place verry grassy - Cotten looks fine rain at night
- 22 Hard rain to day
- 23 Finished moulding G<sup>n</sup>. place - heavy rain thined my corn
- 24 Heavy rain
- 25 rainey evening Cotten looks well
- 26 Finished moulding cotten heavy rain last going over second time saw three forms on one stalk
- 27 Cloudy cold for the season - cut worms injuring cotten very much
- 30 day fine Finished Cotten second time upper side P<sup>n</sup> - B<sup>d</sup>time moulding G<sup>n</sup> place - second time - ploughing corn third time looks verry fine cut worms and bugs eating cotten verry much at G<sup>n</sup> place - ploughing one weake behind
- June 1 went Driving in the swamp killed one Deer - rubbing my dogs with Linseed oil Turpentine and Sulphur determined to Kill or cure them
- 3 Finished working cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time at Gn. place - and corn Finished ploughing corn third time - P. R. worst cotten Ive had
- 4 Foggy morning running one furrow and scrapers in upper new ground - running round P. Bottom one furrow. 19 ploughs & six scrapers - Race track Cherry tree and Pond cut - that only Cotten I have that looks like making a full crop - worm bugs - and bad stand nearly ruins the ballance Hoeing Potatoes running finely
- 5 Went deering and Killed the largest Deer I ever saw. "poor" and weighed 173 pound cleaned
- 7 First warm morning this spring Grass hoppers and bugs still eating my Cotten
- 9 Finished working cotten the 3<sup>d</sup> time worked Potatoes.
- 10 working Corn - went to Woodvill.<sup>9</sup> very much in want of rain crop on home place perfectly clean An abundance

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<sup>9</sup> An important Mississippi inland trading center about forty miles southeast of Natchez and about twenty-five miles north of St. Francisville.

of pusly and tie Vines at G<sup>n</sup> place

14 Clear and warm - I saw yesterday two Cotten blumes on one stalk Fill saw three on the 6<sup>th</sup>

15 Two half grown boles on one stalk going over cotten the fourth time Finished hoeing corn fourth time

17 Warmest morning this spring working G<sup>n</sup> ploughs & hoes

18 Light shoer Finished G<sup>n</sup> four furrows and U. N. ground with scrapers<sup>10</sup>

21 in want of rain on corn appearance of rain to day worked the G<sup>n</sup> place the fourth time by Eleven ok - crop perfectly Clean - pretty fowl with Grass hoppers cotten blossoming finely - my U N. ground neither blossoms nor forms - Knee high at that

22 My cotten looks better where it had not been ploughed in 3 weeks, than any where else larger better formed & branchd "old land" to plough oftener than 3 weeks is an injury unless there should be laking rains - than plough as soon after as you can

24 Nights remarkable warm raining all around me

25 raising Gin House at G<sup>n</sup> place Finished lower side place - old land

26 rain to day first that has laid the dust since 27 of May

28 Hoeing U side place - nights warm went to Woodvill

29 Scraping Cotten at G<sup>n</sup> place a fine rain at last the first that has laid the dust six hours since 27 May had it of rained two weeks ago I am certain I should have made 60 Bushels of corn to the acre - planted 18 inches in the drill rows four feet - one stalk left - Cotten new land rows 9 feet old land 5 - from 2 to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  in the drill - never saw such formed cotten nothing could prevent me from making 8 or 10 Bales to the hand had I good stand but an 1831 storm - made last year 52 Bushels of corn the acre measured by my overseer - N. H. Jackson

30 Tie vines at the G<sup>n</sup> in great numbers

July 1 Foggy mornings - ground in fine order for work -

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<sup>10</sup> Upper New ground was a field which had been only recently put in cultivation.

My negros or some others are determined we shall not have any Chickens - I have com'ced a patrolle every night 'till the offender is caught - Finished ploughing all Home place 3<sup>d</sup> time old land cotten knee high - new land not so good

6 Clear Finished hoeing G.<sup>n</sup> diner time

7 Finished ploughing G.<sup>n</sup> place behind the hoes too much rain at G.<sup>n</sup> place

9 running scrapers and ploughs upper side p.<sup>n</sup> went Fishing in Ratliffs Lake caught great many

11 Corn wants rain and old land cotten great many withered stalks

12 Clear nights verry warm more negros sick than ever I had before Measles Fever and every thing else that can be - Launia has had a swelling in her ancle for six weeks past - verry near bleeding to death from an artery in the Back - warmest weather this year

13 Ploughing lower side P.<sup>n</sup> went Driving with John & Benjamin Joor<sup>11</sup>

15 Clear Finished ploughing all Home plantation pulled some Fodder corn rather young - great many sick Fever and several cases Measles com ced making Baskets on 4<sup>th</sup>

16 running scrapers only, ground verry dry fine weather for new Land Cotten Jack & Demps sawing since the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month

18 running scrapers at G.<sup>n</sup>- pulling Fodder seven sick hoeing W. ground

19 pulling Fodder - Jacob & Henry stacking

21 Clear - Cotten stoped growing Leaves drawn up in the middle of the day - small - new Land making

22<sup>12</sup> Went to Examine Land of Jno. F. M.<sup>c</sup>Dermotts for Mrs Joor<sup>12</sup>- Finished G.<sup>n</sup> with scrapers

23 Saving Fodder with all hands stoped ploughs and scrapers been over my crop since it rained - have not had a wetting rain since the 27 of May

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11 Brothers of Mrs. Barrow.

12 Mrs. Emily Joor, mother-in-law of Bennet H. Barrow and granddaughter of Gabriel Guignard and Frances Delesseline of Isle de Oberon, France. They were French Huguenots. Delesseline was also written De Lesseline.

25 Cleoudy warm - Finished putting Fodder by dinner -  
hoeing W. ground uncovering Gin House - saw one bole cotten  
open hull hard

26 Cloudy saw number boles open - light sprinkle this  
evening cool

28 8 sick Harry verry ill. Fine rain on lower side  
place - hoeing at G<sup>n</sup>s Five spinning two confined more  
Cotten open than I ever saw at this season P rice field cov-  
ered with water - M. Moore & Son repairing my Gin to make  
them Gin from 3 to 4 Bales a day each. for \$100 a Gin

29 Cloudy 5 sick saved thirty double stacks Fodder  
several single ones

30 planting Peas too late for May

31 Cloudy went to see Mrs Turnbull<sup>13</sup> quite ill

August 1 Cloudy pleasant. running scrapers Planting  
Peas light shower

3 Ten negros sick Finished working Gn - Heavy rain  
first rain that has wet the ground thoroughly since May

5 12 negros sick to day 8 hands - ploughing Pr. bottom

6 3 sick to day too wet to work cotten on the G<sup>n</sup>  
place as fine as I ever saw great many boles old land  
small but well boled - Cleaning out scaffold yard six sick.  
two hands only

8 Best boled and formed Cotten at the Gibson place I ever  
saw. Sidneys Child died last night voilent cold two weeks  
old

9 Clear. Finished with scrapers upper side. scraping  
lower side plantation four hands sick three children two  
cases of Dropsy Rheuben "old" & Sam

12 Nine hands sick to day Finished hoeing the G<sup>n</sup> by  
dinner 32 hoes

13 Cloudy verry warm Five hands sick 2 children.  
B. Sam well of the Dropsy Went driving with W<sup>m</sup> Joor<sup>14</sup> re-  
mained at our stands three hours When Master Billy remember  
his living in the same neighbourhood that a small accident be-  
fell him some two year since - & Which drew from him some of  
his bellowing notes - in consequence of Which the Wild Turkeys

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<sup>13</sup> Martha Barrow Turnbull, sister of Bennet H. Barrow.

<sup>14</sup> William Joor was a relative of Mrs. Barrow.

were seen in large numbers migrating Eastward considering the time the drive had left us - Master Billy concluded the Deer had left with the Turkeys he fired his gun in the air let slip one bellowing note & put for Home

15 Clear com'ced picking Cotten with Fifty three hands sent one cart and six hands on the road. three sick - 120 picked by dinner

17 Hard rain last evening at last night - women spinning boys hoeing new ground - old land has had few or no blumes on it for three weeks past P. R. bottom best cotten ever saw on it G.<sup>n</sup> place from five to Eight feet high best formed and branched I ever saw

18 Clear trash gang picking cotten men all on the roade women hoeing - started small Gin putting up Press at G.<sup>ns</sup> 3 sick

19 Sent hands to get pickets for Gin yard - Finished for this year Cotten opening fast

20 Taking Gudgeon out of big Wheel shaft worn out - women and boys picking cotten

21 Grinding over at Robt. H. Barrows<sup>15</sup>

22 Fire comfortable - two hands & two carts on the roade - two getting out pickets sixty one cotten pickers to day - 125 picked by dinner picked over 40 Acres

23 Started my Gins to day

25 Four hands sick: 15 Bales out making scaffold at G.<sup>n</sup> place four hands

26 Sent to Woodville for Mr Joor Emily sick.<sup>16</sup> Gins make fine cotten - picking cotten G.<sup>n</sup> place fine shower

27 Seven hands sick old Rheuben dead

28 Four hands pressed to day - sent Amy Sam Charles & Harriet to dry cotten at G.<sup>n</sup> place as punishment for their idleness five Bales out at Gn. 25 in all - Potatoes uncommonly fine since July

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<sup>15</sup> Robert Hilliard Barrow, nephew of Bennet H. Barrow. It is impossible to identify all the Barrows mentioned in this diary. The family was a large one and many members are not found in the available geneological records.

<sup>16</sup> Emily Joor Barrow, 1815-1845, first wife of Bennet H. Barrow.



29 Started Gin at G<sup>n</sup> four sick Have at this time  
Fourteen hound pups

30 Clear pleasant

31 Clear cool Turned screws for Press - Mrs Joor re-  
turned to Woodvill Average to 167 lbs. fine picking

September 1 Clear nights verry cool gave Candis &  
Margaret a pup to raise for me - More sickness than I ever  
had at this season Eight sick to day 3 children

2 9 sick. one verry ill stoped Gin at G<sup>ns</sup> D. Hamil-  
ton making Press complete for \$100.

3 Pressing to day Cloudy

4 Dinnis Kiah Henry & Peter Pressed to day \$1 Each -  
12 Bales - 34 Bales pressed sixty out last night. G<sup>n</sup> &  
lower side plan<sup>tn</sup> making verry fast - fine rain.

5 rainy day women spinning men getting out timber  
for Hospital - Jim T. broke out in small pimples itching  
verry much

6 damp Foggy morning four hands getting out bed timber  
for Press

7 Clear cool morning picking G<sup>n</sup> place fine picking  
raised press at G<sup>ns</sup>

8 damp men not picking half the day. Heavy rain on up-  
per side pl<sup>n</sup>

9 Pressed Eight Bales at G<sup>n</sup> twenty out at G<sup>ns</sup>

10 Foggy morning - fine picking pressed at Home - light  
rain

11 Cloudy warm - sixty six Bales pressed to night - 85  
out - heaviest rain since May general rain

12 light rain Early - heavy afternoon women spinning -  
stoped both Gins cotton wet

13 Five negros sick chill & Fever more wet cotton  
than I can manage

14 rainy bad day women spinning great deal of Cot-  
ten open much injured by rain since Saturday

15 Cloudy warm. picking G<sup>n</sup>. heavy rain at Home place  
none at G<sup>n</sup> - Hauling Cotton from G<sup>n</sup> to home Gins - 9 Bales  
hauled

16 Clear rain last night sucklers drying Cotten started one Gin

17 Cotten wet on scaffold since Wednesday weake - light rain pressed 10 Bales G<sup>n</sup> place

18 raining during the night. sent away 46 Bales carts & waggon hauling to day \$1 Each 30 Bales out G<sup>n</sup> 110 out in all - rain in morning pressed 7 Bales

19 Cloudy warm - showery through the day two sick

20 Sent sixty six Bales to the river Eighty three Bales pressed 115 out - Went to M<sup>c</sup>Dermotts showery

21 Cloudy picking G<sup>ns</sup> sent to the river 76 Bales - hands picked worse to day by dinner than they have done this year - the worst Cotten I ever saw at this season stained and trashy Cotten picked to day two weakes not dry enough to Gin ninety B. pressed 120 out of 400 lbs

22 Just out of old corn 35 Bales out at G<sup>ns</sup> - four sick two with Rheumatism B Cato & Milley - Eleven at the scaffold - both Gins running - rain light - pressed 4 Bales at G<sup>ns</sup>

23 Heavy fogg - Cotten Gined at Home as bad as can be trashy, twisted stained and wet - sent to Rts. Landing 86 Bales<sup>17</sup> pressing to day old hands averaged 140 by dinner. light rain at 2 - pressed five B. G<sup>ns</sup> 4 at Home - shiped 96 Bales in Number

24 Morning Clear - first for some time picking Home Heavy rain this evening

25 Clear pleasant first time in three weakes - 130 B Cotten out - same time last year 100 only

26 Clear morning pleasant - Lui Gining Essex sick Sucklers trashing cotten four hands trashing at G<sup>ns</sup> I have seventeen hound pups all the best blood seventeen old running dogs

27 Clear warm at mid day. weighed three times to day new ground turning out much better than I anticipated

28 raining this morning before day bad looking day pressing at Gn. women spinning. men and boys trashing Cotten sold part of my first lot Cotten at 18 3/4 cts. I consider a very bad sale - having changed merchants I anticipated

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17 Ratliff's Landing was an important cotton shipping point on the Mississippi river about five miles from Highland plantation.

better luck - a hard bargain I expect - Whats done can't be helped better luck next time rain rain - more cotton open than I ever had at one time - old land and some new open to the top - 140 Bales out - negros selling from 2 to 3000 a pair - or \$1000 sound land from \$15 to \$45 an acre - Cotton selling from 16 to 20 cts - pressed eight Bales Home 9 at Gns - gathered 6 loads corn

29 Clear cool morning. Mr Hainy manager of the Race track died yesterday 28. 1836. great loss - picked Clean Cotton and more of it - than they've done for some time.

30 Clear cool morning first appearance of dry weather for four weeks 3 sick two lame weighed 3 times to day. out of cotton at Gns

October 1 Left Home for Town but joind in Fox chase - caught it and returned Home - two sick with Flux. 160 Bales out of 400 lbs

2 Clear cool wind from the North - Frank Kiah Henry and Peter Pressing to day

3 Fire comfortable this morning Hauling cotton to Rt<sup>s</sup> Landing

4 Clear - pressing - cotton on old land turning better than I expected

5 Frost this morning

6 Morning cool - pleasant day picking Gns - I think I will 250 Bales out by 1<sup>st</sup> November

7 Hands improving in picking 50 Bales at Rts. Landing

8 Picking Home - 3 sick raining after noon

9 Clear Wind North - Kiah Frank and Henry pressed 8 Bales - 185 Bales out last night

10 Clear - went Hunting with Benj. S. Joor - he believing there is luck in leisure came behind quite Leisurely - and as he thought verry fast - slow pace - the Deer ran within Forty yards - he dismounted. Leisurely Deer running quartering from him - fired and could not tell afterwards the direction he fired he says too large for a Doe - but had small horns - it Benjamin

11 Caught a Fox this morning a run of 3 hours & quarter

12 washed my pups in Whisky and campher - picked daily at Wash - AVG 200 several days past.

13 Picking G<sup>ns</sup> Bets child Bill died verry suddenly. 3 hours sick pressed 12 Bales to day

14 64 B out at G<sup>ns</sup> great deal open

15 Clear cool picking G<sup>ns</sup>

16 Clear cool 225 Bales out - picking two months ago - two or three weeks in Sept. done verry little 205 Bales pressed. 75 out at G<sup>n</sup> place

17 Clear pleasant. two sick

18 Heavy dews - cool - I will never buy grown negros from V.a - or upper Country - small boys and girls may do. but grown ones are not worth as much - by at least one third as our creoles - one creole will pick as much as two of them - The following medicin fine for a Horse in bad health - 4. oz. Salts 4. oz salpeter - 2. oz antimony "Crude black," - 2. oz cream Tartar 2 oz. Sulphur 2 oz Rosin two to three table spoonfull a day iron spoon - bleed and stable the Horse

19 Cloudy - hauled 30 Bales to Rts Landing - gathered 5 loads corn - rain this evening

20 Cool. women spinning men & boys trashing Cotten & pressing gave the negros shoes

21 Frost gathered 4 loads corn - 50 Bales at Rts. Land- ing 196 in all - 225 pressed of 400 lbs - 255 out to night

22 Clear cool - light Frost - shipped 50 Bales to day of first rate Cotten - went hunting this morning trailed a cat finely untill it came to a large brier patch dogs quit it in dusgust

23 Have out 260 Bales - 300 acres of cotten to pick as white as any I've had this season - 80 out at G<sup>ns</sup> - sold 150 Bales at an average of 17½ cts

24 picking G<sup>ns</sup> boys pressed yesterday negros getting Potatoes very large

25 Hands averaged to day by dinner 140 - Clean cotten - hauling cotten from G<sup>ns</sup> Home

26 Clear warm hands picked well yesterday. averaged 235 - Clean - ten hands picked yesterday 3480 weight cotten hauled from G<sup>ns</sup> 11880.

27 Leaves falling from small china trees

28 Cloudy warm - went with George John and Benjamin Joor to Jno M<sup>c</sup>Dermotts all verry much pleased with the purchase

29 Cloudy rain in the night. appearance of bad day women spinning men pressing and trashing Cotten - sent Maj. Streets Horse Earl Grey Home

30 Cool - 305 Bales out - seventy to pick Boys pressed 11 Bales to-day - found a Hog Stolen by some of my negro. "Ben"

31 Cloudy cold. digging Potatoes verry fine - saw one red one 3 feet 8 inches long. large size planting

November 1 Cool - two weekes picking - running one Gin Home hauling Cotten from G<sup>ns</sup>.

2 Clear cold - Frost

3 Clear - Frost Finished digging Potatoes - twenty six large hills 12 of plantings - hauling cotten to the Landing

4 Cloudy cool. hauled 15 Bales seed cotten from G<sup>ns</sup>.

5 Killing Frost Hauled to Rts L. 60 Bales

6 Light Frost Boys pressed 10 B. G<sup>ns</sup> 315 Bales out - gave the negros Cappor "Blankets"

7 Voted for Hugh Lawson White of Tennessee - candidate for President of U. S - States

8 Cloudy. picking G<sup>ns</sup> shiped yesterday 80 Bales - Voted yesterday for Hugh Lawson White of Tennessee for President of the U. States - & John Tyler of Virginia for Vice President state rights candidats Martin Vanburen Elected President and R. M. Johnson Vice President strong goverment men

9 Cloudy light sprinkle of rain

10 damp morning gathered 10 loads corn

11 Cleared off since day light wind from N. West - hauled in 28 loads corn

12 Clear pleasant

13 Clear pleasant. Boys pressed 12 Bales - 330 Bales out of 400 lbs - 50 Bales at the most to pick

14 Hard'est Frost this Fall

15 Clear pleasant but little cotton in the neighbourhood to pick

16 Clear - White Frost

17 Clear warm - sold 196 Bales for \$13984.33

18 Cloudy East wind 140 Bales out at G<sup>ns</sup> in N<sup>o</sup> 360 out of 400 lbs - light rain

19 Cloudy warm heavy rain last night pressing Home & G<sup>ns</sup> cleared off beautifull

20 Clear cool Boys pressed 8 Bales

21 Clear cool

22 Hauling Cotton to Rat<sup>s</sup>. Landing

23 Verry cold ice. plenty

24 Clear cold Sucklers pulling hay for dog beds

25 White Frost - raising chimneys to new houses

26 White Frost trashy cotton

27 Cloudy warm 380 Bales out - of 400 lbs - about ten more to pick

28 Cloudy cold - hauled 70 B to Rts Landing. 346 in all

29 Foggy cold ground frozen pulling corn 52 loads

30 80 loads pulled to night

December 1 Cloudy corn turning out well will make more than ever I made - more to the acre

4 Cloudy cold - appearance of rain returned from Woodvill - two large cribs nearly full - of corn

5 Raining women spinning men and boys trashing cotton

6 Cleared off verry cold Finished pulling corn

7 Clear verry cold Finished hauling in corn - hewed out 6 negro houses sitting on the Grand jury since Monday hauling in pumpkins

8 Clear cold picking cotton verry trashy three cribs of corn two large ones

- 9 Some rain this morning
- 10 Clear cool - Finished picking upper side place
- 11 Cloudy warm - went driving no luck
- 12 raining bad looking day women spinning men and boys trashing
- 13 Clear pleasant 4 men getting Cypress for negro cabins
- 14 Clear cold Finishing picking Gns
- 15 Cloudy warm Finished picking Cotten
- 16 raining during last night sent B. Sam and Amy down to be sold by R. L. Woodfolk sold them for \$1760 - not worth \$5. hauling my last lot of Cotten to the river 39 Bales
- 17 Cloudy verry cold, women spinning yesterday and best ones to day
- 18 ground frozen Verry hard
- 19 Cloudy cold shipped 375 Bales in number
- 20 Some rain in the night appearance of rainy day - rainy day quite stormy
- 21 Clear cold as it can well be every thing frozen payed off my negros yesterday evening
- 22 Clear cold went to the race between D<sup>r</sup> Ira Smiths colt Arlaces A Haralsons Mexican - And my mare Annot Lysle - best 3 in 5 mile Heats - My mare won - the winner \$1000 sold her after the race to D<sup>r</sup> Smith for \$1500 cash
- 23 Cloudy cool Finished clearing up new ground
- 24 Cloudy warm negros went to Town for Christmas
- 25 Sunday. Christmast Foggy warm some rain in the evening turned cool
- 26 Cloudy cold wind from the South House Jerry and Isreal chained during Christmass Jerry for general bad conduct - for a year and better - Isreal bad conduct during cotton picking season
- 27 Clear verry cold
- 28 Clear verry cold

29 Clear pleasant day gave the negros a dinner

30 Clear pleasant

31 Cloudy warm Jack Whiped his wife "Lize" - sent for  
him he thought best to put out & did so



1837

January 1 Cloudy light rain intend for my negros to keep themselves and their quarters Clean Com'ceing to morrow Monday 2<sup>d</sup>

2 Clear cold Jack came in getting boards rails chopping & women spinning

3 Clear verry cold

4 Cloudy Cold Mrs Joors hands came down to the plantation bought of M<sup>c</sup>Dermotts 297 B. sold for \$19844.32 cts

5 Cloudy two cases of Pleurisy

6 Cleared off Cool rain last night built a dog House with floor find it much better - less subject to mange

7 Clear pleasant

8 Showery day

9 Cleared off beautifull

10 Damp Foggy morning

11 Cold nine women spinning rest cleaning up

12 rain last night. Misty day Five sick

13 Cloudy cold

14 Cloudy cold several with Pleurisy

15 Clear verry cold.

16 Clear verry cold rolling logs all hands

17 rainey morning. Clear after ten

18 Clear spring day hands working finely

19 Foggy morning Employed M<sup>r</sup>. Bailey as Overseer for \$500 & fired him

20 Cloudy warm heavy rain last night

21 Clear verry cold. the moon gone down North of West farther than I ever saw it

22 Clear spring day - went driving

23 pleasant

24 Cloudy nine ploughs started.

25 rainy worst day for months past

26 Clear verry cold - ice - several cases of Pleurisy

27 Clear pleasant - 12 ploughing for corn

28 Clear pleasant day

29 Pleasant

30 Cloudy quite a storm last night Hail from N. West - Made in 1836 some few Bales over 400 - amount \$24,839.58

31 Clear pleasant. Bought 12 Red pump N<sup>o</sup>. 2 - \$6. - Eight pair trace chains and engaged 15 ploughs c. Simeons at Laurel Hill - best plough ever put in the ground \$7.

February 1 Finished ploughing new ground five furrows for corn - deep.

2 ploughing old land for corn and old corn land for cotton

3 Warm

4 Cloudy warm

5 Heavy Fogg

6 15 Simens ploughs running first rate

7 Cloudy warm - Prince Taleyrand ran at Natchez on the 27 January 4 mile Heats against Susan Yardal was beat. verry lame - Heard Heart was beat 2 mile Heats. for \$3000 aside - Prince \$6000. I consider Morris E Boyles no trainer<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Later in the year, however, Barrow and his brother, William R. Barrow, employed Boyles as trainer for their stables.

8 Clear fine day Finished ploughing new ground corn land for cotton

9 Clear cool Vaccinated myself taking finely

10 Cloudy cool

11 rainy verry bad looking day left Home for New Orleans

16 Considerable rain during my absence

17 Finished ploughing U N ground four furrows and R T. cut. Vaccinated the Children Finished U side four furrows

18 Clear ground frozen - Com'ced ploughing four furrows at Gns 19 ploughs

19 Cloudy cool. B Joor returned with D<sup>r</sup> Callihams two dogs - Ringround and Gatewood

20 Cloudy - Misty evening

21 Cloudy breaking out middles for corn

22 rainy day Finished U N ground for corn

23 Cloudy cold too wet to plough

24 Cloudy cold

25 Morning Damp and cool - 6 sick one Dropsy four with pleurisey

26 rainy day

27 Cloudy cold com'ced on new crib of corn 20<sup>th</sup>

28 Cold - ice in abundance - ploughing new log ground for corn

March 1 Cloudy Cool. Com'ced planting corn new ground water in furrow.

2 raining appearance of bad weather women spinning

3 rain rian rian and still raining

4 Clear pleasant ploughing new . . . 5 sick

5 Cloudy Cool

6 Appearance of rain planting corn W<sup>m</sup> Joor came down

to see me guarded by Simon at night. rainy day

7 Morning Cloudy ground verry wet

8 Appearance of Clearing off - 1<sup>st</sup> morning Martins made their appearance

9 Clear cool - moon very much on its back Indians sign for Wet weather .

10 Spring day planting corn

11 Left Home for New Orleans rain before night - bad weather during my absence

20 Heavy rain in the evening - was verry much disappointed in Not seeing the races in N. Orleans owing to Violent tooth ach. And jaw have it yet

22 Clear pleasant Com'ced breaking out middles on the  
16<sup>th</sup>

23 Clear breaking out middles in R. T. Cut

24 Clear Finished breaking out middles all U side plantation

25 Clear breaking Middles P R bottom 17 double ploughs running

26 Clear gave the women a dress

27 Com'menced planting cotten this morning four ploughs & harrows

28 Clear pleasant - ground in bad order.

29 Morning Foggy Making Potatoes ridges - scraped some corn

30 warm - run four furrows each side old bed in upper new ground and put part G.<sup>n</sup> place - Finished planting cotten upper side place - Made Potatoes ridges

31 Sprinkle of rain warm planting Potatoes since dinner

April 1 Clear cool Finished planting Potatoes

2 Clear - went deering saw five Does Killed two

3 Cloudy planting Cotten in P R bottom and Gn. place

- 4 Fine rain after Breakfast.
- 5 Clear too wet to plant cotton
- 6 Clear left Home for Woodvill rain at night 3 sick
- 7 Clear cold for the season
- 8 Near Frost Finished planting Cotton and breaking out middles
- 9 Clear verry cold - Frost Killed What Cotton was up
- 10 Clear 9 acres of Potatoes planted com'ced ploughing corn one crib of corn some little over.
- 11 Clear pleasant Hilling corn
- 12 Great quantity of rain since last night - too much women spinning
- 13 Bad looking day made a Bridge over L creek<sup>19</sup> started a Bear hounds ran it well M<sup>r</sup> Bailey left his stand & it passed
- 14 Some rain transplanted corn
- 15 Cloudy men mawling P Potatoes in Quarter
- 16 Clear pleasant cotton coming up well
- 17 Clear cool Cotton in great danger Finished planting 3 acres of cotton neglected by my Overseer - seeding corn - quit small
- 18 Clear cool Hilling corn
- 19 Clear left Home for the races at St Francisvill cotton dies as it comes up - Angora won to day 2 mile Heats easy 346 - no competition 2<sup>d</sup> Heat
- 20 Warm - Arlaces won to day 3 mile Heats in two Heats 545.543 verry quick time - track quick
- 21 Cloudy warm Finished hilling corn verry small
- 22 Cotton coming up finely all lower side, fine stand above
- 23 Warm negros went to meeting over to R. H. Barrows

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<sup>19</sup> He probably alluded to Little Bayou Sara creek.

24 Cloudy cool cold rain this evening light com'-  
ced barring off cotten.

25 Com'ced barring off cotten 24 ploughs yesterday  
stoped to plough some corn - hoes hands scraped from 3 Oclock -  
cotten look bad

26 Cool morning - gave \$1000 for third of Fanny Bell  
fine bay Mare - Barring of Cotten - My Overseer so good he is  
good for nothing - 22 ploughs scraping cotn

27 Cloudy cool cotten still looks bad - Emily went to  
Woodville

28 Clear cool Finished scraping in corn land 10 Oclock

29 Clear most day this year Finished barring U S. place  
ploughing corn lower side - nine sick com'ced on new crib  
last Friday 21<sup>st</sup>

30 Morning pleasant hot at noon

May 1 Clear pleasant - Finished scraping above - hoeing  
corn lower side - verry small - 8 inches high

2 Clear Weather. Sent Nancy Miller and Robt. J. Barrows  
mare Kate Kearney down to Lauderdale by insurance \$120 both

3 Clear pleasant - ground verry dry Com'ced barring  
off Cotten at G<sup>ns</sup> place on the 1<sup>st</sup> scraping . . . new ground  
- scraping four days and three fourths

4 Scraping G<sup>ns</sup> windy weather

5 Cloudy Finished barring of G<sup>ns</sup>

6 Fine rain this morning ground in better order for  
scraping than has been this year cotten improved

7 Clear. one crib of corn up to the plates

8 Clear cool morning - Corn not quit Knee high two sick  
one pretending

9 Clear pleasant Cotten much improved corn also,  
Finished barring off by 7 Oclock - ploughing corn Finished  
scraping G<sup>ns</sup> by 9 Oclock

10 Cloudy scraping 11 days & half. Moulding cotten with  
ploughs since breakfast - four furrows

11 rainy this morny all scraping cotten

12 Clear Cool Finished scraping cotton by breakfast. Black smith 4 days - hoeing log land corn - average knee high - sucklers hoeing potatoes - Finished scraping Potatoes. Negroes work so badly made them work verry lat to Finish as punishment

13 Clear pleasant. hilling corn 2<sup>d</sup> time 20 ploughs moulding cotton

14 Clear cotton in U N g. looks badly gave negroes permission to preach shall never do it again too much raciality carried on

15 Fire comfortable - Com'ced hilling with hoes this morning

16 Verry cold last night

17 Cloudy cool sprinkle rain last night

18 Clear pleasant

19 Clear Finished hilling upper side plant<sup>ti</sup> by dinner one sick

20 Cloudy warm hilling G<sup>ns</sup>

21 First warm day this spring

22 Clear warm - Finished moulding G<sup>ns</sup>. Voted to day for A. G. Howell Police juror - D<sup>n</sup> scamp at best<sup>20</sup>

23 Clear warm Finished hilling G<sup>ns</sup> with hoes by dinner

24 Clear verry warm Finished moulding Cotton - And Potatoes Breakfast - some rain set for runaway shot at him twice missed

25 Cloudy cool Finished hilling cotton by 10 Oclock - hilling Potatoes ploughing corn half thigh high

26 Clear Fire comfortable ploughing corn lower field - hoeing corn one crib of corn two thirds full

27 Clear cool scraped Potatoes in quarter

28 Clear pleasant crop in beautifull order Best Cotton I've seen corn from knee to waist high wants rain

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20 A. G. Howell was a neighboring planter with whom Barrow had had more than one altercation.

29 Clear pleasant hoeing corn went Fishing general ducking

30 Clear warm Finished ploughing corn 3<sup>d</sup> time

31 Cloudy warm Finished hoeing corn by dinner - the fourth time suffering for rain hoeing cotton third time since dinner

June 1 Clear verry warm Gave \$18 a barrel for Prime Pork

2 Clear verry warm - dry dry dry - negros holliday 'till Monday

3 Clear verry warm went drawing the seine.

4 Cloudy verry warm

5 Cloudy verry warm - running 12 Scrapers in R. T. cut - putting up House moved from G.<sup>ns</sup>

6 Clear verry warm new Land cotton from 10 inches to knee high old land about 8 inches high all looks well - dammed the green pond - digging out the quarter pond running scrapers lower side plan<sup>tn</sup>

7 Cloudy warm - hoeing G.<sup>n</sup> place Cotton above as fine as I ever Saw. below and G.<sup>n</sup> indifferent - 48 hoes and 12 scrapers running

8 Clear Finished hoeing G.<sup>n</sup> place 3<sup>d</sup> time hoed 300 Acres in two days Could have been over my crop the 3<sup>d</sup> time last Tuesday no work in the field. running 13 scrapers in part G.<sup>ns</sup>

9 Clear Corn looks well for weather stoped work untill it rains - digging out quarter pond

10 Clear - gave the hands to day

11 Sprinkle of rain at one. And from 4 till dark. great deal of Lightning

12 Cloudy warm - 6 hands in swamp getting out cypress fence

13 damp morning hoeing below. thined corn this evening

14 Clear pleasant thining corn started 12 scrapers in new Land - out of work for hoe hands after to day cotton well branched - thined cotton saw one blume



15 Clear helped Furbell worke his crop - 4 ploughs and 12 scrapers running in new ground 11 men chopping Sucklers spinning

16 Low clouds women spinning run some lead for Gill net or seine. number of blumes this morning

17 Clear went Fishing

18 Some appearance of rain Cotten in upper field looks finely below not good small - part at G<sup>n</sup> good - corn nearly gone for want of rain

19 Cloudy running four furrows at G<sup>ns</sup> women spinning - P. R bottom not worth a D--- six inches high and blossoming. all old land looks bad six weeks since it rained to lay the dust

20 Cloudy R. T. cut cotten miserable stuff 8 inches to a foot high - all new land Cotten looks well half leg to over Knee high - corn cannot I think make more than two thirds of a crop. Some of it Tossling at shoulder high running 25 ploughs - sprinkle of rain. fine rains below crib nearly half full of corn.

21 Cleard off cold in the night - hoeing at G<sup>ns</sup> leveling behind the ploughs - perfectly clean Finished ploughing G<sup>ns</sup>. Sucklers planting Peas

22 Clear cold ploughing above - cotten wilted from cold this morning

23 Cloudy warm - went Fishing - Saw A. Haralson get a handsome ducking by Ruffin & I. Johnson<sup>21</sup> - Fine rain below sprinkle here - Finished ploughing above the 4<sup>th</sup> time ploughing below

24 Last night remarkably warm. as Fine a rain as ever fell, this morning and light rain afterwards

25 Fine rainy day - six weeks since it rained - and seven since of any good

26 rainy day women spinning men choping one sick Augue & Fever

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<sup>21</sup> William Ruffin Barrow, a brother. Haralson and Johnson were neighboring planters. It is impossible to identify most of the names mentioned in this diary. For the most part they were neighboring planters or visitors from other Louisiana parishes or from Southwest Mississippi.

27 Fine shower to day. planting Potatoe slips in the quarter - trash gang

28 Clear warm - ground verry wet in Cotten Land - Tie vines come up verry thick worked G<sup>ns</sup> 4 times part Home 4 times - Could have been over 4 times ten days ago. Cotten from half leg to hip high. Except P bottom and by the G<sup>n</sup>. Gin - generalley fine

29 Light shower to day scraping above

30 Warm - fine rain at 12. raining since too wet to work

July 1 raining through the night. Appearance of bad day one Sick Wind East 7 or more days

2 damp Foggy Morning verry warm

3 Clear verry warm - scraping all hands at G<sup>ns</sup> Tie Vines and crab grass come up as thick as can be over the Whole plantation

4 Clear Foggy started 14 scrapers 6 ploughs G<sup>ns</sup>

5 Clear stoped scrapers running 20 ploughs fine Cotten except P B. G<sup>n</sup> Gin and R. T. cut

6 Clear verry warm - corn land cotten verry fine - waist high one third of a crib of corn Finished hoeing & ploughing the G<sup>ns</sup> place 5 time 2 day. Working below. ploughs & hoes. shower.

7 light rain at noon - Finished ploughing below.

8 Morning pleasant Finished hoeing below. Breakfast time - Worst hoeing and meanest cotten I have had - hoeing above - cotten first rate

9 Clear pleasant. Corn improving fast

10 Clear running 15 ploughs in corn land Cotten. ten scrapers in U N ground. James quit sick Fever - More rain this evening than has fallen at one time since April - two sick

11 damp Foggy - All hands scraping Cotten above - too much rain yesterday cotten injured - being large and tender great deal lying down - hard rain this evening - a continual roar of thunder before the rain came - Never heard anything to eauquel it

12 damp morning grass plenty - All hands scraping - new land cotton verry much bent and torn to pieces by wind and rain - over waist high old land from knee to hip high

13 Clear pleasant morning ploughing above since dinner - shower this evening

14 Clear warm

15 Clear. Finished hoeing above hoeing below

16 Morning Clear - too many Caking rains cotton growing too fast

17 Clear - nights remarkably warm for this country - some ploughs above some below more grass in Cotton than I ever had by double - Com'ced making Baskets

18 More pleasant - one quite sick

19 Most pleasant night this summer hoeing below since Monday evening

20 Clear warm - hoeing Gns grassy. Home place in tolerable order - Cotton forming more rapid than it has this year - fine water melons - shower

21 Finished ploughing Home - Breakfast ploughing Gns - More rain fell this evening in one hour than I ever saw fall in two or three could barely get across L. creek in one hour after the rain com'ced

22 Thined and topped some cotton daughter Caroline verry sick rep<sup>d</sup> dam at Green pond, one sick rain

23 Cloudy warm Cotton from waist to head high - well formed one sick rain in even'g

24 Cloudy - ploughing and hoeing Gns one quit sick Billious Colic

25 Appearance of fine weather running 15 ploughs - rain above none below.

26 Clear verry warm - over the worst grass - Cotton looks fine - 3 sick

27 Clear. 5 sick - working above

28 Clear pleasant - 4 sick - light rain

29 Clear. bad hoeing and ploughing some Hale yesterday

- 30 Cloudy warm two sick
- 31 Clear warm started 9 scrapers above Finished hoeing Gns. stopd scrapers 15 pl<sup>y</sup>'gs r<sup>y</sup>'g
- August 1 Cloudy warm. My old poney Caleb came home after an absence of two years - upwards of 20 years old
- 2 Morning warm and Foggy - some cotten 7 feet high rows 8 feet wide - 4 feet in drill - and locked - took an Emitie myself
- 3 Clear warm - old land Cotten shedding
- 4 Clear - 5 sick beautifull crop at G<sup>ns</sup> crop much better than it was at any time last year - well formed & bolled.
- 5 Cleard off cool from the North
- 6 Cloudy quite cool last night 3 sick best prospects for a crop I ever had fine stand & thickly bolled.
- 7 Clear cool barred off some bottom cotten this side L creek ploughing below
- 8 rain in evening. hoeing G<sup>ns</sup> - pulling Fodder since dinner 3 sick. B. S. Joor left College
- 9 Appearance of rain Finished hoeing all lower side plantation hoeing above 7 sick
- 10 rainy evening 7 sick 4 hands
- 11 sprinkle rain this morning Finished ploughing for this year on the 9<sup>th</sup> - fine rain - marked some forms & blumes
- 12 Fine rain hand quit work
- 13 A Flood of rain this afternoon I have the best crop I ever saw and some of Largest Cotten 5 to 10 feet high rows 8 & 9 feet. locked
- 14 Cleared off. pulling Fodder since dinner verry much burnt. 6 sick
- 15 Clear cool 3 sick 5 Children - two of old Cealys almost incurable from her meanness
- 16 Started 5 scrapers level. at G<sup>ns</sup> gin house
- 17 Clear pleasant. 6 Sick

18 Clear pleasant. All forms falling off old Land owing to baking rains and not ploughed in time afterwards Finished pulling Fodder - stoped scrapers

19 One negro quit sick - 4 Children "worms"

20 Clear warm - verry sickly. My Overseer sick 8 sick 5 Children among them

21 Clear Finished hoeing Home - 7 sick. Cleaning out scaffold yards. saving Fodder

22 Com'ced picking Cotten old women and Children. 9 hands sick 6 children

23 Morning cool all hands picking to day 7 sick 7 children 225 picked to day average 150. first rate - first day considering

24 Sent hands on the roade 7 sick 4 Children

25 Clear - 7 hands sick 4 children 2 died this week 3 y<sup>r</sup>s old - verry sudden of worms Finished the roade

26 Clear picked over below - 19 sick to day never had sickness before

27 Clear - from appearance of my crop must make near 500 Bales - corn well yeared - have ten verry promising hound pups - 15 Bales out.

28 Clear making scaffolds at G<sup>ns</sup> 8 men moving house for Cotten - picked over Home - started 2 Gins this afternoon

29 Clear warm picking at G<sup>ns</sup> 8 sick

30 hands picked well yesterday 280 highest 12 sick fine picking considerable rain at G<sup>ns</sup> light rain Home started Gin at G<sup>ns</sup>

31 Clear warm 12 sick 8 hands - best crop I ever saw - balled to the top - picking Home. too wet below

September 1 Clear pleasant. picking Gns - 10 sick - in riding through my field the Eclipse colt "Concert" started with me and bridle bit came apart & a more awkward situation cannot be imagined after running though several dangerous places I luckily escaped unhurt

2 Clear verry cool nights and morings picking home. 12 sick. 8 hands

3 Clear verry cool Frank Kias Dennis and Henry pressed

to day \$1 each - 12 Bales a day took 35 out. 9 sick 3 Children fine breaking out same way as last year Gave my saddle Horse Churkey for M<sup>c</sup>Dermotts stock of cattle upwards of 50 head

4 Clear cool - had a general Whipping frolick. White men sending for some of my women by one of my boys. "one eyed Sam" - a load of buck shot will be the dose if I can see them or find them

5 Some rain quit sick last night

6 Cloudy. Cotten damp - picking G<sup>ns</sup> since dinner 4 sick quit sick myself from dinner till in the night Emily and Caroline sick<sup>22</sup>

7 Cloudy 3 sick Emily sick. Caroline well - my head feels bad from Quinine

8 warm. picking below. one negro bit on bothe hands by spider - Emily and Caroline quit sick

9 One sick. two or three with s[w]elling. I have four pups that have had no care taken of them and are stronger and better looking than any I ever had

10 Eighty Bales out. 10 pressed at G<sup>ns</sup> Cotten does not open as usual, for such dry weather at this season

11 Clear picking above boys pressed yesterday, 32 Bales pressed 50 gined

12 Cloudy cool 5 sick weighed in the field - averaged 190 - fin picking

13 Clear cool picking at G<sup>ns</sup> 4 sick 44 B. pressed. 65 gined

14 Sprinkle of rain this evening

15 Clear warm 3 sick

16 warm night fine picking every Where - averaged 205 Clean cotten

17 warm 115 Bales out in N<sup>o</sup> same time last year 110. some rain

18 rainy day pressed 8 Bales

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<sup>22</sup> Barrow's wife and daughter.

- 19 Cold picking below.
- 20 Clear cold
- 21 Some rain picking G<sup>ns</sup> 3 sick
- 22 Com'ced hauling cotten yesterday 1<sup>st</sup> shipment.
- 23 Cloudy picking above. Peter inclined to Dropsy not worth a D--- pressing women spinning boys trashing cotten
- 24 Clear 120 Bales out in number - 100 pressed - between 130 & 140 Bales out of 400 lbs.
- 25 Clear picking G<sup>ns</sup> hauled 74 Bales to Rat<sup>s</sup> Landing
- 26 Clear pleasant Cotten does not hold out by 10 Bales 135 out averaged 206 yesterday. 135 by dinner picked yesterday and to day at least 800 weight to the acre 55 P. out at G<sup>ns</sup> fine picking every Where and great many boles to open rain after 4 oclock - pressed 4 Bales.
- 27 Cloudy women spinning. men gathering some corn. Weighed 100 pound Cotten ginned it turned out 28 lbs - I think I can have 280 Bales out by 1<sup>st</sup> November heavy rain stoped both Gins 7900 weight cotten hauled from G<sup>ns</sup> 4 sick
- 28 Verry hard rain - more than has fallen since July - hands picked well this morning - spinning
- 29 Women spinning - men doing little or nothing went driving for runaways - in company with W<sup>m</sup> Bailey jno., Bailey - Riddell & Purnell - as heavy rain as ever fell - at dark 155 Bales out. Same last year
- 30 Clear worked my roade - airing Cotten after dinner - getting timbr for Jail
- October 1 Clear - Purnell caught my boy G. Jerry. and Charles let him unlock himself and put
- 2 Cloudy picking G<sup>ns</sup> hauling it Home - great deal of Cotten open - More Whiping to do this Fall than all together in three years owing to my D mean Overseer - never will have another unless I should be compelled to leave - they are a perfect nuisance
- 3 Cloudy wind East - picking below. Avreage 220 round
- 4 Appeance of rain - picking finely 200 average - Verry trashy cotten under the eyes of my D. fool Overseer

5 400 lbs Sprinkle of rain - heavy rain at dark - 170 B out of all raised same time last year had picked 254<sup>3</sup>45 this year 257715 Close rub - 110 at the landing 1<sup>st</sup> shipment

6 rainy day. heavy during the night women spinning men pressing &c. I think I can hav 295 B. out by 1<sup>st</sup> November the most stormy day I've seen 1831 from the East. heavy rain &c.

7 Cloudy fresh wind from the North. Stormed ceased at noon - George drowned in L. Creek in the field found him this morning. a verry great loss. one of the best negros I ever saw. or knew. to his family as a White person. one fourth of Cotten blown out at least. Corn verry much blown down

8 Morning cool. 150 B. pressed in number.

9 Clear quit cool picking G<sup>ns</sup> I hear of great damage through the Country from the storm - Horses lost &c.

10 Clear cool cotten verry much staind Parson Burruss called to see me yesterday - wishes to sell his blood stock mares and colts - he is the most perfect connoisseiur in the Horse line I ever met with - excellent judgment &c.

11 Cloudy warm - picking below 2 sick picking badly

12 Clear pleasant went to see Parsons Burruss's blood stock not pleased with them. though in bad order

13 3 sick Cotten opening verry fast.

14 Cloudy cold morning - Cleared off pleasant

15 Clear some thing over 200 B. out of 400 lbs

16 Heavy dewes since the storm picking G<sup>ns</sup> went Woodvill

17 Cloudy verry warm

18 Clear warm. returned from Woodvill.

19 Clear verry warm

20 Clear from 500 to 1000 weight cotten open to the Acre

21 running the trasher for some days 230 B. out of 400 lbs 195 pressed - in N<sup>o</sup> same time last year 225 out 210 pressed - 4 sick. one with Piles & meanness



22 Cloudy verry warm 4 sick - rubed Tar and salt on my dogs for the mange - picked 354.350 last year this time 354000 - Pressed 44 B. all of Sunday \$1 a day. I think between 150 & 200 B open

23 Showery appearance of bad weather invariably the Case When I com'ce hauling Cotten - picked well by dinner trashing since one sick.

24 gathered some corn - some spinning gave the negros shoes

25 First cold weather this Fall gathered 34 loads corn to day.

26 Clear cold - too windy frost. corn turning out well - one year makes one pint

27 Clear verry cold - Frost. wraped paper around one year corn then shelled it - filled it 4 5<sup>th</sup> full

28 Clear verry cold - picking cotten - hauled 65 loads corn one large crib full some over

29 Clear cool hauling cotten.

30 Some rain. Cotten picking as bad as I ever Saw. killed one Deer and one Turkey

31 Cool some rain last night. hauled Cotten Sunday waggon & carts

November 1 Cloudy cool. 250 B. out of 400 <sup>lbs</sup> - 150 to pick

2 Clear pleasant. hands picked better to day than have for don sometime some one while the hands were out at work broke in to several negro Houses stole clothing blankets & meat I think

3 Shiped 182 Bales 40 Bales behind last year this time last year had out 305 B. 400 <sup>lbs</sup> now 265 upwards of 125 to pick

4 rain at day light - gathered some corn sold my 1<sup>st</sup> shipment 108 Bales. 11½ cts. 2 B. lost - took my hound pups out after Deer Tyro traileed eauqual to any dog I ever saw

5 Clear cold - Com'ced giving the negros Potatoes Sunday last

6 Clear pleasant picking G<sup>ns</sup>

7 Clear pleasant

8 Clear - went to Town. have in Training by Morris E Boyles Fanny Bell - Feliciano - Merlin Filley Betty - Brian & a Bob Colt

9 Cloudy warm - hauling cotton from Gns.

10 Damp warm morning.

11 Cloudy - rain morning Cleard off in evening verry warm Jno Joor coming up this evening saw a W cat

12 Cloudy warm - pressing to day picked yesterday - Ateam picked 511 Ben 461 - Dave Bartley 511 Dennis 430 Kiah 455 Jack 455 - Betty 315 - Lize 310. every day cotton can't be beat - 431 each - 315 B. out - 330 this time last year - the six men picked 2823 - An average of 471½ two women not racing 8 in all 3448. 431 average - Demps picked in 1830 572 15s L. Dare 543 fair cotton

13 Cloudy damp morning - picking Gns

14 Clear cold Betsy and L. Dare pretending to be sick

15 Clear. jumped a large Deer in Wades field while Fox hunting returned got our guns and Ruffin Deer dogs and Killed it - verry fat B S Joor & my self both shot it

16 Clear. Bailey found Jerrys camp last night over the creek Purnell shot at him twice missed - 5 sick

17 hands picked badly by dinner some rain this evening Ruffin has given me four beautifull young dogs - Madison & James considerable rain this evening & yesterday

18 rain last night - hands picked better to day. great deal of Cotton open 100 B. I think 4 sick great complaint with bad colds

19 Cloudy set on the roads for Jerry. A negro passed on horse back refused to stop or answer Mr Riddell put a load of small shot in his leg - belonged to Mr<sup>s</sup> Cobb - have out 335 B of 400.

20 Morning pressed 17 B yesterday & 100 to pick - rec<sup>d</sup> from N. Orleans 75 p<sup>r</sup> Blankets - for negros - 2 sick 2 Gins running for some time past - trashy picking

21 Cloudy danp

22 Cloudy cold stoped Candis from coming home to suckle 4 times

23 Clear verry cold hite killing Frost Digging Potatoes.

24 Clear cold. started several deer to day.

25 Clear - pleasant Finished digging Potatoes - turned out badly

26 Morris took Fanny Bell to N. Orleans not in order - gave the negros Blankets 282 B. pressed - 345 B. out of 400 lbs

27 Cloudy pleasant. hands picked badly this morning - A threat improved them verry much. picking above

28 Cloudy warm

29 Bought 32 mules \$95 each 12 month credit one horse

30 Cloudy warm. Dr Calliham came down perfectly disgusted with him - too familiar to live brought two dogs down with him - no delicacy

December 1 Cloudy verry warm Left Home for New Orleans races

12 Cloudy cold returned from New Orleans. rain at dark gathered corn during my absence - 30 or 40 Loads in the field - Bought two saddle Horses in N. Orleans - one for R. J. Barrow \$200 each verry fine

13 cold some rain

14 Verry cold - went to Woodvill to Miss Jane Liddells wedding Married to Hamden Randolph

15 turned warm. Fine racing in New Orleans. Fanny Bell beaten the 3 mile day - and best 3 in 5 - Cotten selling from 8 to 12½ ct. 308 shiped in N<sup>o</sup>

16 Showery after dinner. 4 cribs of corn - two Luzbourough colts arrived home from Tennessee & in bad condition

17 Some rain turned cold 205 loads corn. 338 B. pressed 75 in seed - 410 out in N<sup>o</sup>

18 Clear cold

19 Clear verry cold

20 Clear verry cold

21 Cloudy warm - Caroline sick

- 22 damp cloudy morning rain last night
- 23 heavy rain last night and this morning - payed the negroes
- 24 Clear verry cold. every thing frozen 344 B. pressed  
- sold 252 Bales "gained 15" at 10.68.91.440 out
- 25 Christmas - every frozen - went Fox hunting Caught large cat
- 26 Cloudy cool negroes went to Town
- 27 Morning cloudy. cleared off warm
- 28 Pleasant day sent 3 of M<sup>r</sup>. Turnbolls boys off. for smOKing cegars in my front yard-- with a note to him - and never to put their foot on the place again<sup>23</sup>
- 29 Pleasant. negroes preparing for a dinner
- 30 Damp - Foggy & warm
- 31 Cloudy pleasant. Negroes seemed to enjoy Christmas verry much ran two of Uncle Bat<sup>s</sup> negro<sup>s</sup> off last night<sup>24</sup> - for making a disturbance - no pass - broke my sword Cane over one of their skulls

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23 Daniel Turnbull, a brother-in-law.

24 Bartholomew Barrow, an uncle.

1838

January 1 Com ced work Hands appear in fine spirits - picking GNS one weakes picking 5 weaks Gining verry trashy - Joshuas leg cut - Isaac Erwin sent his Bob Oakley colt up to have trained - and a present of two young hounds<sup>25</sup>

2 Cloudy wind East. Went to Town great distress through country for money stopping of the Banks. Merchants Failing &c. no Silver in circulation

3 raining from the South. George Joor and Family came down yesterday<sup>26</sup>

4 Cloudy pleasant wind South - heavy rain and lightning afternoon half Bale scattering cotten to pick

5 Foggy cool Men getting rails and pressing - started Gin GNS - women spinning and trashing Cotten

6 Cloudy hauling Cotten - went to the race best 3 in 5. Louisa Bascome one

7 Heavy rain this evening from the North.

8 Clear verry cold

9 Some clouds. 4 hands in swamp getting out pickets - two preparing to plough the Quarter and Orchard all women trashing Cotten - Caught my Brother boy Henry in the Quarter last night - kept him untill to day - better than Whiping.

10 rain before day

11 Hailing Sleeting and snowing.

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<sup>25</sup> A planter and sportsman who lived in Iberville parish. For information concerning the Erwin family see Alice P. White, The Plantation Experience of Joseph and Lavinia Erwin, 1807-1836, (Louisiana State University Thesis, 1933), passim.

<sup>26</sup> A nephew of Mrs. Barrow.

12 ice and Hail remaining since yesterday Emily left for her mother to remain some tim. - "on the 9<sup>th</sup>"

13 Clear verry cold - knocking down Stalks

14 Appearance of rain - pressed 7 B. last Sunday - pressing to day at Gibsons - Will ship on Tuesday next 66 B. in 334 in N<sup>o</sup> 50 to Gin - On selling from 5 to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  c<sup>ts</sup> - The times are seriously hard - all most impossible to raise one dollars. and that in shin plasters - great Excitement in Congress. Northern States meddling with slavery - first they com'ced by petition - now by openly speaking of the sin of Slavery in the southern states - on the floor of congress - must eventually cause a separation of the Union<sup>27</sup>

20 returned from Woodvill - verry cold. and bad weather - I have a verry bad cold - pressed 8 B. last Sunday

21 Cloudy verry cold. pressed 9 Bales

22 Making plough lines - threatened with Rheumatism

23 White Frost pleasant day - during my stay at M<sup>r</sup> Joors last week my House servants Jane Lavenia & E. jim broke into my store room - and helped themselves verry liberally to every thing - Center - Anica - & Peter had some of the good drink "as they say" - I Whiped the three first worse than I ever Whiped any one before

24 Showery day. Finished Ginning yesterday started 15 ploughs for oats near 450 Bales - putting up stalles for work horses - my House boy E. Jim the meanest, dirtiest boy I ever had about me - women and trash gang cleaning up.

25 Appearance of a rainy day - rainy

26 ploughing for corn since yesterday warm - too wet to plough

27 Mistey morning. Cleared beautifull Put up the Tombstone over my Father - removed from Washington City Fall of 1836<sup>28</sup>

28 Cloudy cool morning left Home for Woodvill - took with me Eleven Fox hounds shall com'ce hauling my last lot Cotten to morrow

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<sup>27</sup> In the light of subsequent events the prophecy made by the West Feliciana planter is an interesting one.

<sup>28</sup> William Barrow (1765-1823) died in Washington, D. C., where he had journeyed to place young Bennet in school.

February 4 returned Home from Woodvill last weake Worst weake I ever saw Thomometer down to 10 - 25 to day 10 Oclock

5 every thing Frozen

6 Cloudy cool ploughing old land for corn - flush - Old Cealey sick - light rain in the morning

7 rain at day Shiped in N<sup>o</sup> 415 Eales Cotten. 6 lost "421" - between 440 of 400 lb<sup>s</sup> - twenty double ploughs running bought 6 p<sup>l</sup> trace chains rain at dark Appearance of bad weather - Pork selling from \$11 to 16. bulk P. 5 & 6

8 raining through the night no appearance of stoping to day women spinning Sucklers during the weake - Maria sinc Wednesday

9 Cleared off cold - Cealy worse to day with Hemorage - the moon appears uncomenly large to night

10 Appeance of spirng - finished ploughing above for corn - runing four furrows - in L G cut for cotten - left Home for Woodvill

18 Cleared off - ploughing G<sup>ns</sup> new ground for corn and Cotten returned from Woodvill with Family the worst weather we have had - I even saw snow hail ice &c. extremely cold

19 fine day. ground wet.

20 Clear Finished ploughing corn land for cotten - below - five furrows

21 Verry cold day

22 Verry cold - went fire hunting last night for Woodcock failure<sup>29</sup> Jno. Mayrant with me<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> In describing a West Feliciana fire-hunt Timothy Flint wrote, "Their most interesting hunts are practiced by night, and are called fire-hunting. The dogs are leashed together. One dog carries a bell. Two or three black boys carry over their shoulders fire-pans, being a grating of iron hoops, appended to a long handle, and filled with blazing torches of the splinters of fat pine. The light is brilliant and dazzling. . . . The deer is tracked. . . . The deer, dazzled and appalled by the glare and the noise, arouses from sleep, and gazes in stupid surprize. The eyes are discovered, shining like balls of fire. The hunter aims his rifle between the eyes, and the poor animal is sure to fall." Timothy Flint, Recollections of the last Ten Years. . . (Boston, 1826), pp. 338-339.

<sup>30</sup> Brother-in-law.

23 Clear verry cold - 3 with pleurisy

24 Clear pleasant

25 Cloudy warm

26 Finished above four furrows for cotten - corn flush - except 80 acre - ploughing G<sup>ns</sup> four furrows - Mayrant Killed 3 Turkeys

27 Clear cool making fence and cutting trees at G<sup>ns</sup> Mayrant Killed 4 Turkeys

28 Spring weather

March 1 Com ced on small crib of corn last Friday night 3 cribs full - light steady rain - ground ploughs verry tuff at G<sup>ns</sup> 21 ploughs running one Martin appeared to day

2 Morning warm com ced hauling seed on corn two carts, rainy evening

3 Evening cool - will finish making fence - and running four furrows - at G<sup>ns</sup> Never saw such times every body hard run for money these times proves the old maxim to be correct by just before liberal - I have tried to be both and now am verry much in want of my frends - A lesson for the future. Whats done can't be helped N<sup>o</sup> one first - with 3 fourths of mankind - selfishness his fort

4 Having wind and rain from the West

5 Clear cool morning Com'ced planting corn - breaking out a head

6 Clear cool planting corn in old Land - water furrow. Oney quit sick with Pleurisy

7 Cloudy Finished breaking out middles for corn - covering corn with ploughs - 3 sick

8 Ploughing P rice bottom twice in the 1<sup>st</sup> furrow. verry deep - two sick one with snag<sup>d</sup> foot - Pork in N. O. from \$11-50 to 16

9 Went driving this morning in company of D<sup>r</sup> Walker Jno. Joer & jno Mayrant D<sup>r</sup> W. snaped - Finished planting corn on the 8<sup>th</sup>

10 Heavy rain this evening

11 rain last night I believe there is but one or two strictly honest merchants at B Sara - they put an inferior art-



icle on you - and charge from 50 to 200 pr c<sup>t</sup>

12 Cloudy warm. making pasture fence - and hauling willows to put in house lot Wash - some spinning some working hauling seed &c.

13 Heavy rain too wet to plough putting Willows in House lot wash

14 Never saw a more pleasant morning - Birds and every thing the appearance of spring - gone to roll Logs for Purnell - hands do not like it

15 Make last year 415 Bales in N<sup>o</sup> 450 of 400 lbs  
Amount \$16761.40 - Finished running round four furrows yesterday some time

16 Clear cold North wind ploughing corn land for cotton below women spinning - boys in the swamp. Oney gives me more trouble than all the plantation. been in the House 8 days - and spun 8 slippers Whiped all my ploughers - for shallow ploughing - Mrs Joor came down yesterday

17 Clear cold saw the largest flock of Wild Turkeys in my field I ever saw in a field - could have killed 5 or 8 with shot gun at one fire - Killed one with Rifle

18 Frost - went driving with 7 or 8 - Killed one Deer - ran several though

19 light Frost Com'ced burning brush off of some log land - 130 acres of middles broke out. Saturday night

20 pleasant - some spinning - corn sprouting some days - ground crusty

21 Finished breaking out above - 2 sick Finished burning brush - running Harrows over corn

22 Cloudy warm - Finish harrowing corn by dinner - breaking middles at G<sup>ns</sup> went driving started 6 Deer and 6 standers - none Killed

23 Warm - Clearing up briers at G<sup>ns</sup> - women spinning 2 sick

24 pleasant James<sup>31</sup> went with me this morning after Turkeys none killed

25 Clear pleasant.

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<sup>31</sup> Barrow's son.

26 Clear verry smokey - planting corn and pumpkins in log land - sent Alfred to buy two dozen hoes - and sent jenny Devers L. colt to the race track fearfull of my corn, ground laked

27 Cloudy - burning & cutting trees at G<sup>ns</sup> Bartley catching fish to kill R. coons put arsenic in them &c. corn coming up verry slow.

28 Cloudy pleasant went driving saw one Deer. A Barrow<sup>32</sup> shot at two missed

29 Clear pleasant - verry dry Com'ced planting Cotten breakfast - ground in fine order - 3 sick

30 Clear Finished planting cotten above

31 Cloudy 1<sup>st</sup> appearance of rain in several weeks - planting Cotten G<sup>ns</sup> stoped breaking middles some time thursday could have Finished to night ground too dry and hard

April 1 Pleasant. Trees put out verry rappid Jack caught runaway Jerry had to beat him verry much cut him with a club in 3 places verry bad. on the head - and two cuts on the hand - runaway 6 months. as perfect a sheik as ever lived

2 Clear warm day.

3 Clear Finished planting cotten G<sup>ns</sup>. by breakfast. three weeks racing in New Orleans - Com'encng last weake

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32 Alexander Barrow, Louisiana lawyer and statesman. After holding various public offices he was sent to the Senate in 1841 where he served until his death in 1846. He was a sportsman and racing enthusiast. Upon his death the editor of the Spirit of the Times (Jan. 9, 1847) wrote, "On the demise of the Hon. Alexander Barrow, one of the members of the U. S. Senate from Louisiana, the south-western Turf has sustained the loss of a most staunch and influential supporter, and a distinguished ornament. Barrow was for many years the popular President of one of the Jockey Clubs at New Orleans, and though prevented by official duties from breeding and training to any considerable extent, he was onthusiastically devoted to the improvement of horses and the best interests of the Turf. Mr. B's nomination (a Skylark colt out of Lilac) won the 1st heat in the race for the celebrated Peyton Stake (of 20 subscribers at \$5000 each) four mile heats, which was won by Peytona. In the great match race between Boston and Fashion for \$20,000 Mr. B. was one of the Judges."

4 Morning cool went out Turkey hunting before day with Dr. Desmond<sup>33</sup> and L Purnell - shot twice Flying missed - hoeing corn first time looks verry badly. running ten plough breaking out middles can't wait for rain any longer.

5 hoeing corn above - harrows answered finely good stand in new land - harrows eauqual to one working comes very near rain

6 Cloudy warm cotten coming up in new land sprinkle rain this evening.

7 appearance of plenty of rain - rain last night to lay the dust. 2 sick I have Fifteen of the best blooded hound pups I ever had or saw

8 rece<sup>d</sup> 25 B Prime Pork from N Orleans. jim sent jno. Jeor and A Barrow 4 pups

9 Clear morning cold. ploughing up 50 Acres corn - planting over - soaked the corn - 15 ploughs running - Black smith worked 12 days last year 6 days this year \$2. Com'ced on new crib of corn the 6<sup>th</sup> two large ones full

10 Clear pleasant. planting corn in R. T. cut one child quit sick Com'ced ploughing corn. 9 ploughs . . . small and looks badly Pork \$11.50 & 16. last \$15 & \$18.

11 Clear warm Finished planting corn R. T cut B Smith came this morning to work replanting and hoeing log land corn - turned quit cool this eving ploughing corn above

12 Fire comfortable this morning working corn behind the ploughs - 3 sick seeding corn since dinner

13 Making traps and poisining corn to kill R coons never saw them as bad - Feel quite unwell - heavinss at stomach took a Blue pill last night

14 Clear - pleasant. B. smith worked two days and half

15 Appearance of rain Lucy Mary O. Hannah Lucky jenny Lize & Leah pass to A Barrows Deer run place

16 Verry warm - Finished ploughing corn once - breaking out middles in P R. bottom waiting for rain 3 weaks - ground as dry as can be. Finished seeding corn by breakfast. hoeing 2<sup>d</sup> time cotten coming up slowly

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<sup>33</sup> An English physician who had settled near St. Francisville and with whom Barrow had some unfortunate financial dealings.

17 Cloudy warm - neve saw as large moschetos in my life great many of them for some days Early for them our pet Deer Eat off the heads of 12 East India geese - heavy wind at dark from N. West.

18 Clear morning verry fine rain last night great deal of Lightning

19 Clear cool Finished planting Cotten

20 Finished planting Cotten yesterday with 6 Harrows & ploughs. And planted sweet Potatoes. 6 barring off cotten to day stand in loose land - intend making G. Jerry ware womens cloths for running away & without the least cause.

21 Clear pleasant. all hoeing corn except 4 running harrows over P R bottom 2<sup>d</sup> time went hunting and Fishing kille one Deer

22 Went hunting Killed one Deer

23 Clear pleasant hoed corn 2<sup>d</sup> time Com'ced scraping cotten Breakfast 20 ploughs barring off. cotten not more than half up. want rain. corn from 3 to 8 inches high & looks badly. Ruffin has purchased Horse Pressure (Mad Anthony) for \$7000. 3 years old. 4 this spring never been beat. ran all distances under 4 mils - made fine tim blood bay. 15 hands<sup>3 1/2</sup>

24 Went to Town. saw Pressure as near perfection as can be

25 Cloudy - went driving - Deer saw me

26 Cloudy. verry warm - scraping G.<sup>ns</sup> since yesterday dinner - Cotten coming up finely - corn improving appearance of rain - Cotten all come up last night.

27 Finished barring off G.<sup>ns</sup> baring below. sucklers hoeing corn - Killed a fine Turkey yesterday Morning

28 warm wind from the south. Finished making cypress fence around my House lot - fine rain at Dusk

29 Dark cloudy morning turning cool

30 Transplanting and hoeing log land corn - breaking out

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34 The Spirit of the Times, Apr. 21, 1838, published the following note, "Wm. R. Barrow, Esq., of St. Francisville, La., has purchased Mad Anthony (late High Pressure), for \$7000, of Walker Thurston & Co."

middles in last planting corn R. T. field - fine stand When I first scraped - Cotten come up verry thick, corn from 6 inches to knee high

May 1 Cloudy wind South East. went to the races sweep-stake for to day we paid forfeit - Filley out of order - hoeing cotten G<sup>ns</sup> - 15 ploughs runing

2 Cloudy - races com'ce to day - 3 mile heats - Lavenia oure nurse gave the baby a large dose of paregoric near Killing him - "yesterday"

3 Linnet won the 3 mil purse yesterday easy. beating Arlaces and Clinton - fine rain last night bad for the race to day. Jos Bell beat Pressure 4 mile heats to day no race. Pressure came very near dieng after the 1<sup>st</sup> Heat draw. 840. Yesterdays time 552 Each heat

4 Cloudy cool. Rhoderic Dew won to day. 2 mile Heats beating Arlaces Dick Haile Livingston - D O'Connel. time 352 $\frac{1}{2}$  3.52. Arlaces & D O. distances

5 Clear fire comfortable. hoeing corn Race track - Finished baring off 1<sup>st</sup> planting of cotten stoped ploughs. 2 days baring off old land - Mile Heats best 3 in 5 to day won by Britannia. beating Lilac & Lavenia Lilac verry bad order as M E Byles Horses have been always - parted with him - Employed Tisdale of Kentucky - \$1500<sup>a</sup> year - bought Jos Bell at \$8000 - payable 1<sup>st</sup> December next.<sup>35</sup>

6 Jockey club races ended yesterday poor sport during the weak. grass come up in the cotten verry thick Cotten with two to 6 leavs on it. Caught Jack Dennis & Ben with a hog to day. gave orders that no negro should leave the Quarter without letting the Driver know it and report themselves on their return

7 Cloudy cool hoeing corn in last planting - 150 Acres young cotten to scrape ought to have Finished by the 8<sup>th</sup> I have J Bell Fanny Bell - 2 Luzbourough and one Bob Colt to sumer - all look verry well - corn 8 inchs to 2 feet high - cold rain from the North. Finished hoeing R T. corn by 4 - scraping cotten - Cleard off beautifull

8 Clear cool morning fire comfortable scraping cotten above. ploughing corn above since yesterday dinner scraping cotten 9 days to day 8 days only with regular price.

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<sup>35</sup> Josh Bell was Barrow's most famous horse. He won some notable races, the greatest probably being the match race with Waggoner, an animal termed by Barrow, "the best horse in the South."

9 Morning cool Finished scraping first planting by 10 O'clock. say 9 days scraping; 2 & half more days to Finish made lot for Jo<sup>s</sup> Bell - Com'ced hilling corn above 2<sup>d</sup> time started 5 ploughs running round cotten.

10 Fine rain this evening - all ploughs moulding cotten after 4 O<sup>ck</sup>

11 Verry hard rain all the morning women spinning men daubing chimneys

12 Morning cloudy scraping young Cotten. Finished barring it. Moulded some from 5 - Cleared off warm

13 Cloudy wind East. Gave women Calico dress

14 Foggy morning. Com'ced hilling Cotten above - runing four furrows - warmest day this year - Finished moulding all new land above by Breakfast. ploughing corn in pond cut and runing one furrow in cotten corn land last year above - 5 ploughs running round in corn land below - Cotten from 4 to 8 & 10 leaves on it. 8 or 9 inches highest

15 Cloudy verry warm - went Fishing to Black Fork - a party of Ladies and gentlemen. Afterwards came to A. G. Barrows danced & set up all night

16 Cloudy bad looking day. light rain at noon - Ten run round L. G. and penice new ground one furrow four furrows G<sup>ns</sup> bottom

17 Cloudy verry warm - breaking out middles in L Gate and runing one more furrow in P R new ground. 8 ploughs running round at G<sup>ns</sup> scraping last planting - my hands have been doing bad work all this season stoped it this morning. 20 ploughs running - one pretending to be sick (Juila) - scraping young Cotten

18 Sprinkle of rain just after day Finished moulding L G. & running 4 furrows round P. R. new ground by 9. breaking out G<sup>ns</sup> new ground - and running 4 furrows Gibson G<sup>ns</sup> place - 8 ploughs a head running round - even with last years work two sick - Finished scraping young cotten and hilled 125 Acres

19 Cloudy morning. Appearance of rain - hilling cotten. L. G. cut and P R new ground, cotten verry much Eaten by bugs or grass hoppers at the G<sup>n</sup> place - with that exception it looks well - went to Town with Family, Mrs A. G. Barrow and Mrs Joor - dined at old Nellys first time James John & Caroline were ever at the river - they were delighted<sup>36</sup> sprinkle rain this evening

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<sup>36</sup> Mrs. Barrow was a relative, and James, John and Caroline were the Barrow children.

20 Cloudy - damp - my hands worked badly yesterday - do not like appearance's - Never saw crab grass as thick at this season owing to so much cloudy damp and warm weather, nights &c. ploughs doing finely - Bought 33 barrels P Pork in New Orleans cost me \$16 to get it Home - \$15 a barrel. 6 for freight. 12 for storage - Levi hawled one Sunday - Several showers through the day - Appearance of a rainy night - several days behind last years hoeing - ploughs equal

21 Heavy rain in the night - and have not seen such a rain as fell this morning in a great while - stopped raining at one o'clock - all hands scraping log land corn - sucklers worked road in the lane - corn from knee to shoulder high - growing too fast. bend down in new land

22 Cloudy morning wind North - Hoeing new ground cotton cleaning grass away from it - weeds &c. - all hands - I have had a pain in my hip since yesterday morning - Rheumatic - Old Orange quit bad off - been ruptured for some time - suppression of urine for a day or so, discharging blood - sent for Dr. Desmont this morning - Finished hoeing new ground by 10 o'clock. scraping P N new Land - too wet to put dirt - Killed Large Deer in N<sup>o</sup> one drive - verry poor - 5 sick. two with pains - one with biles - 3 Fever

23 Cloudy cold. Verry disagreeable weather. hoeing G<sup>ns</sup> since breakfast - sprinkle rain last night - too wet to plough - plantation verry much washed from Sunday night and Mondays rain - eight in the sick house - 4 fever & ague - biles pains &c.

24 Clear verry cold - never felt colder weather at this season - as cold as has been since 10 of March - went Driving in the swamp - in company of M<sup>r</sup>. Boyle - D<sup>r</sup>. Walker. two M<sup>r</sup>. Smiths & Ruffin - Jos Smith shot a Deer with large buck shot - bled freely did'ent get him

25 Clear verry cold - went driving Deer ran through the field<sup>s</sup> - Frost - cotton looks verry badly. owing to cold - Finished moulding G<sup>ns</sup> with ploughs 3 o'clock - four furrows - Com'ced ploughing young corn since - and 8 ploughs running round cotton - 40 acres above - 8 in sick house

26 Clear morning verry cold - old corn from waist to shoulder high - young corn Knee high - wants work - will have little or no grass after to day. been 12 days since I com'ced hilling Cotton - will Finish next Wednesday or Thursday - 1<sup>st</sup> planting Monday - hoes four days behind last year ploughs 3 days - Finished hilling cotton G<sup>ns</sup> to day

27 Clear pleasant day - Parkison & D<sup>r</sup>. Desmont came and went driving - much against my wish. no luck

28 Cloudy appearance of rain - hoeing Cotten old land above - running one more furrow - with ploughs - Cotten looks verry badly

29 Saw 4 Forms on one stalk cotten Cloudy - Finished hoeing first planting Cotten 9 - hoeing 2<sup>d</sup> planting corn - 11 ploughs running round cotten below - 9 ploughs breaking out middles above - Twice 5 oclock

30 Finished hilling young corn 2<sup>d</sup> time by 11 oclock - scraping new corn land cotten above - Twice - fine rain this evening. went Driving - com'ced going over cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time

31 rainy morning - raining during the night - of great service to corn and cotten - ground baked from the rain last weake - Cotten improved verry much several showers through the day. Finished scraping new corn land cotten above - hilling or chopping the new ground Gin house - cut worms or bugs injuring Cotten verry much - cotten from 6 inches to half leg high

June 1 considerable shower before Breakfast heavy shower at Breakfast - I have 2 two year old colts - as well formed and the best blooded ever in this county Luzbourough - one other two year old verry fine. by Bob Oakely - the blood of his Dam not positively known - "Nancy Miller" she was fine race mare & has the best colt of its age I ever saw. "by Lauderdale" My two mares in Tennessee have two colts each said to be verry fine - the first two colts I have named - the Grey out of Lucilla Little Misery - the bay out of Jenny Devers - went Driving this evening Killed a fine Deer - scraped Potatoes

2 Cloudy scraping cotten - too wet to aid - breaking out middles at Gns since yesterdy morning - some negros broke in to my smoke House night before last. took five hams - can't tell how much other meat they took if it were my negros I think they would have taken bulk Pork - from their getting an allowance out of it Sunday - and the two weaks previous - & knowing the Hams would be missed - The piece of iron used to open the Door was made for such puposes - they broke it leaving about 2 inches of it - the Black Smith came yesterday evening - negros holliday part of the day - light sprinkle in the evening - went driving dogs ran off

3 Cloudy Damp morning - wind North East - Cleared off - this evening Beautifull

4 Clear pleasant - would not be much surprised if we had a drought of four weaks or more - hilling young cotten. all cotten above looks well. from ancle to near knee high - cotten in corn land below looks verry well - bugs eating cotten at the Gns place verry much - and it looks as bad as can be - wind North - Son Jame's poney "Goody" kicked him down day be-



fore yesterday - hit him side of his head - wind pleasant.  
sun verry disagreeable - Went up to W<sup>m</sup> Barrows<sup>37</sup>

5 Clear summer day - Moulding cotten in P. R new ground  
with ploughs - 2<sup>d</sup> time - and ploughed new ground below - 25  
ploughs running

6 cool Finished hilling cotten "young" by 10. And have  
hilled over 125 acres cotten 2<sup>d</sup> time ploughed pond cut corn  
- corn from waist high to high as shoulder & head on Horse  
back cotten from 8 inches to near knee high improving

7 Clear cool night & morning - ploughing cotten new corn  
Land above - Middles grassy "fine" - hoeing P. R. new ground  
and scraping L G cut - D<sup>r</sup> Walker and Lady - with Miss Gelain  
and two M<sup>r</sup> Smiths spent the day with us yesterday - Mrs Haile  
came down yesterday<sup>38</sup> - My young Dogs have the Distemper

8 Clear pleasant morning - Finished ploughing upper new  
corn land cotten - 3<sup>d</sup> time 9 oclck verry fine - ploughing up-  
per new ground corn - Finished scraping L G cut cotten by . .  
oclock<sup>39</sup> working new ground corn below - Saw several stalks  
corn tossing & silking never Saw a worse crop of cotten gen-  
erally than I have at this time - small bug eaten and wants  
work greater part of it - highest cotten will average half  
leg high - old Land from 6 to 10 inches - never saw a better  
crop of corn - if the season continues good must make as much  
as any corn can make - 3 to 4½ feet in the row. 18 to 25  
inchs in the Drill - this time last year was out of work owing  
to the dry spring

9 Cloudy warm - quit ploughing corn ploughing L. G.  
cut. ground laked - &c. throwing one furrow back to the cot-  
ten in new corn Land cotten, hoeing it - Finished new corn  
land cotten 4<sup>th</sup> time - Light rain

10 Cloudy damp morning - Went to Town yesterday negros  
went to Robt. H. Barrows to meeting

11 Cloudy verry warm - com'ced working G<sup>ns</sup> ploughs and  
hoes 3<sup>d</sup> time. cotten improving verry fast - running four fur-  
rows - 25 ploughs - planting Peas. "sucklers"

12 Clear morning pleasant - light shower in the after-  
noon

13 Morning clear and pleasant - Finished running round to  
G<sup>ns</sup> house with four furrows by breakfast - 3<sup>d</sup> time breaking

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<sup>37</sup> Brother-in-law of Bennet H. Barrow.

<sup>38</sup> Sister of Mrs. Barrow.

<sup>39</sup> Barrow neglected to fill in the time.

out middles P. R bottom - two sick - one a child the Dis-temper is Killing all my pups the best blooded ones I ever had - 5 living

14 Clear pleasant morning Finished breaking out middles in young cotten by 1/2 10 Oclock - cotten from 10 inches to knee high - looks well crop in fine order - ploughing corn every other row. wants rain - 4 or 5 days past verry warm

15 Clear verry warm - Grass hopper still eating forms off of cotten - cotten not well branched - dry weather will improve it verry much - Finished hoeing G<sup>ns</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> time by 9 Oclock - I have the best crop in the neighbourhood

16 Clear verry warm - went Fishing and hunting - Killed one Deer & dogs caught one - negros Holliday.

17 Clear warm morning - went through my Quarter before day - one child quite sick - Fanny Bell "Mare" gone blind - doubtfull whether she recovers - Paid Essex \$5 for Kiah \$150 for Wade & \$1.10 for jno Joors Dennis

18 Some clouds. verry warm - Finished moulding old cotten with ploughs 2<sup>d</sup> time - could have Finished all to day - hoeing and ploughing - cotten from 10 inches to over knee high looks well - never felt a more oppressive morning - Thumometer 1.11 at 12 oclock in the sun 10 minutes ploughing corn since Eleven oclock

19 Cloudy warm - thined Pond cut corn yesterday evening two sick two pretending - two Blumes "cotten" on one stalk yesterday - numbers to day - Ploughing new ground above since dinner Finished ploughing all the corn since it rained. looks well as yet - Finished hoeing 1<sup>st</sup> planting of cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time "some 4<sup>th</sup> time" by 3 oclock - must have had cotten blumes some 4 or 5 days ago. from the size boles

20 Morning Cloudy - damp. wind South and warm - never had a better prospect for a crop. both corn and cotten cotten in upper corn new ground never saw better - Robt. H. B. crop generally one fourth the size of my crop. Ruffins the same - Emily went to Woodville on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Finished suckering & thinning corn by dinner - Started 8 scrapers in new corn Land cotten above - "middles" - 3 sick

21 Clear verry warm - Finished scraping above "new ground" by . . . oclock - ploughing 4 furrows lower part G<sup>ns</sup>

22 Cloudy verry warm hoeing lower part G<sup>ns</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> time runing scrapers and plows G<sup>ns</sup> in the middle - sister Eliza

came to see us yesterday evening<sup>40</sup> - found no one at Home - hoeing Log Land corn since 11 Oclock

23 Foggy warm morning - intended giving all hands to day - but found 30 acres not half worked P rice new ground - hoeing it. runing scrapers and harrows behind - bunches of grass remaining in middle of the row - sent Benj. S. Joer two hound pups on 21<sup>st</sup> - have only 3 pups left - two of Carolines & one of Veries

24 Clear warm Emily returned from Woodvill yesterday

25 Clear verry warm - ploughing and hoeing young cotten - hoed all plantation since it rained - running scrapers at G<sup>ns</sup> - sprinkle rain

26 Clear verry warm weather

27 Clear verry warm - went to Town - Finished ploughing young cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time

28 Clear verry warm - stoped all ploughs - running 8 scrapers - women spinning - boys and men thinning and taking out bunchs of pusley in cotten - new corn Land cotten

29 Clear verry warm - never past a warmer night than last night - working at G<sup>ns</sup> running old land below since yesterday

30 Clear verry warm wind West. negros holliday since yesterday 'till Monday gave them a dinner

July 1 Cloudy morning verry warm - corn wants rain verry much - cotten from half Leg to hip high looks well - in beautifull order

2 Clear warm - lightning in the North East last night - 4 hands in the swamp - hoeing Potatoes - Women spinning 4 hands making preparations for a Barbacue on the 4<sup>th</sup> at A. G. Barrows - went to Town to vote for members to Congress Gov- enor & Legistor - Voted for Ruffin for Legistor Roman for Covenor - judge Chinn & Lawson Candidates for Congress. Chinns a rank Federlist & Lawson any thing Can't vote for either - light rain this evening

3 Cloudy warm - fine shower at G<sup>ns</sup>. none at Home - "Hail allso"

4 Morning clear warm - had a very fine Barbacue & Dance on the Saw dust. Ladys verry much pleased

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<sup>40</sup> Wife of William H. Barrow.

5 Cloudy verry warm returned hom this morning - Ruffin & Ratliff Elected - to the Legislature

6 Clear warm - verry much in want of rain Scrapers running men getting out cypress timber - women spinning trash gang bringing pickets out of the swamp - went to Turn-bulls with Bethia Liddell Carolin Joor<sup>41</sup> & Emily

7 Clear verry warm - negros holliday - Fine rain this evening

8 Cloudy morning - corn field barely moistend - ground been dry so long - upwards of 5 weakes - shower at 12

9 Morning clear & warm - Fine rain through the country - William sent for Potatoes vines - ploughing & hoeing Potatoes - running 15 scrapers at G<sup>ns</sup> since Friday crop in beautifull order - first planting from knee to over waist high - young cotten half leg & knee high - all looks verry fine - corn wants rain verry much - several showers through the day - stoped scrapers - running 20 ploughs - Finished hoeing potatoes

10 Pleasant morning few clouds fine rains all around me - I have had fine cotten rains - working lower end G<sup>ns</sup> Cotten from half Leg to waist high - all looks well - corn burnt nearly to the Ear - having so much in corn neglected - sucklers & old women spinning 4 hands in the swamp carpenter building - two making coal - Jo<sup>s</sup> Bell improving - Luzbourough colts look fine - Bob colt improving Lauderdale colt (Nancy Millers) verry fine - ploughing P. R bottom - too wet at G<sup>ns</sup> fine rain - & wind at G<sup>ns</sup> yesterday evening - light rain during the evening

11 Cloudy & damp morning - ploughing old land below - tie Vines coming up - & grass

12 Cloudy morning - fine rains all around me - thined young corn and hoeing (scraping) cotten above ploughing G<sup>ns</sup>

13 Cloudy morning - verry heavy rains through the neighbourhood - none here - 5 & 6 large Boles of cotten on a stalk went Fishing to Ratliffs Lake. never saw just such looking creatures - Bennet Robert H. j<sup>r</sup> Robert J. E M<sup>c</sup>Dermott H. Lyons P Butler D. Johnson - the muddist & dirtiest set of beings in existnce - some without hats coats suspenders - shirts partly torn off &c.

14 Cloudy damp weather - Emily quit sick since yesterday eveing Mrs David Barrow to see us since yesterday 1 sick

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<sup>41</sup> Mrs. Barrow's sister.

for several days past fine shower at noon

15 Cloudy in the East - pleasant. Emily much better

16 Clear beautifull morning - every one has had enoughf rain but me - ground never wet in corn field - finished ploughing Gns Breakfast. ploughing P R new ground - cotten from knee to breast high - verry fine

17 Clear verry warm morning - Finished ploughing P R new ground yesterday ploughing P rice bottom. Finished hoeing U N ground cotten "corn" 4<sup>th</sup> time by 10 Oclock hoeing part P r new ground - two sick - best rain at one Oclock I've had yet - hilling & planting Potatoe slips - & scraping L G cut - Com'ced making Baskets to day.

18 Clear pleasant morning 4 sick several pretending to be sick - Ploughing old land cotten above - Sucklers hoeing near Gin House - shower at 3 ocl'ck light rain in the evening - ploughs and hoes each done a bad days work

19 Cloudy - damp morning - Finished ploughing old Land cotten above 4<sup>th</sup> time never saw better cotten than the L. G. cut cotten generally growing too fast - fine grass & tie vines pretty thick - turned jenny devers Luzbourough colt in the corn field

20 Clear pleasant morning - Finished old land below Breakfast time ploughing upper corn "new" land cotten - hoeing Gns since 6 Oclock. this side L creek - hard shower at 2 oclock - making new palings back garden

21 Morning Clear & damp - all hands holliday.

22 Clear - last night verry warm breaking Bob Oakely Filly out of Maria by sir Archy - verry wild & bad - never felt evenings warmer than several days past.

23 Clear warm - working Peas sent four hands to join and work the woodvile road at the line - Hot as Fire

24 Clear - wind North West for some days past. all Home place cotten verry fine - some at Gns growing too fast - Finished ploughing above the 5<sup>th</sup> time by 11 Oclock - & Finished hoeing above 5<sup>th</sup> time - verry light hoeing - Ploughing piece cotten near the Gin House - part deep & close to it - part edge of the limbs - two men sick Finished hoeing P R new ground - hoeing Gns since 4 Oclock. ploughing Gns since dinner

25 Cloudy morning - Sultry - Sucklers spinning - two hands making Baskets since Monday - cotten wilted in the middle of the two days past - sun verry hot - stoped ploughing at 3 Oclock all hands hoeing - left Home this evening for Uncle Ba<sup>ts</sup>

26 Low clouds verry warm - hard rain at Uncles & in Town

27 Clear eveing warm day returned home this evening - found 3 sick

28 Clear wind North Negros holliday from 9 Oclock verry fine crop - shower rain at 2 Oclock. heavy rain & wind below - & South West.

29 Clear damp Morning

30 Cloudy verry warm - started 8 scrapers below - had 3 young hounds taken with staggers yesterdy - best trailing pup I ever had died this morning - effects of distemper Finished hoeing Gns 5<sup>th</sup> time by 9 Oclock hoeing new ground adjoining - & P. rice bottom

31 Cloudy sultry morning - 9 women spinning - Finished a shop & dance room for my negros<sup>42</sup> - (to flooring) - one child verry ill Sunday croup & worms light shower at noon - never saw better crop - and never saw as good cotten as my upper new corn land. from 50 to 100 & upwards of large Bolles

August 1 Few clouds - damp - Benj. Joor came down - sent up yesterday for Mr. Griffin & Bethia Liddell - pulling Fodder to day

2 Cloudy morning hoeing old above - 4 sick - verry little work to do Sam pulling Fodder - ploughing this side little creek at Gns - went Fishing yesterday at Black Fork - never saw as many dead Fish - My last trip - First rain that has run in the field this summer - at 12 oclock lost one days pulling of Fodder - women spinning men & boys getting timber - & digging out Quarter pond<sup>43</sup> 5 sick ague & Fever - slight

3 Cloudy damp morning - verry heavy rain

4 Clear - sun verry hot this morning - drying some Fodder this morning - Mrs Griffin Bethia & Emily went to spend the day with Jno Joor - heavy rain - negros holliday

5 Clear morning - warm

6 Clear morning - pulling Fodder loosing very fast - Sucklers & old women spinning - some few tie vines. sprinkle rain this evening

7 Clear morning - verry warm 4 sick this morning - threatened rain eveing

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<sup>42</sup> A building for recreation was not common on Southern plantations.

<sup>43</sup> A large fish pond near the slave quarter.

8 Clear morning - threatning rain at noon - hauling Fodder - sprinkle rain in evening - 4 sick

9 Foggy morning. sultry - Clear - never knew a rain to come as unexpected as it did this evening - wet considerable Fodder started 3 scrapers above Yesterday - never saw better Bolled cotton except some few places not thined sufficient - son James & John went in the field with me this evening - James was caught in the rain by himself well soaked - verry little rain lower side P<sup>d</sup>.

10 some clouds - hoeing & drying some Fodder - steady rain from one 'till 4 Oclock - counted 105 Bolles cotton (grown) on one stalk & 98 on another not hip high

11 Cloudy damp morning Scrapers running above - hoeing new corn land cotton. as fine as I ever saw - rain at noon. Jack broke his fore Finger last night Whipping his wife

12 Foggy morning - verry pleasant - appearance of clear weather

13 Morning clear. warm. pulling Fodder - running scrapers below the cotton in lower part of G<sup>ns</sup> not well bolled - large and well branched - owing I think to such heavy laking rains - none of it this side G<sup>ns</sup> House

14 Clear beautifull morning - pulling Fodder runing scrapers at G<sup>ns</sup> left Home for Mrs Turnbolls bothe sick

15 returned Home this morning left M<sup>r</sup> Turnbull better Mrs Turnbull convalesent - child better - North wind for two days past - sun verry hot

16 Clear warm morning. went to see Turnbull. found him salivated appearance of rain. heavy clouds in the West lightning &c. 2 sick

17 Clear warm - Finished pulling Fodder yesterday morning - bringing in Fodder Finished running scrapers at G<sup>ns</sup> by breakfast. scraping below - jno Joors came up with Emily sick slight 2 sick - Finished Fodder

18 Clear verry warm in the Sun. hoeing above - scraping P R bottom.

19 Clear pleasant - jno, Joors runaway Dennis was caught yesterday and brought to me - Fine rain at noon - none below - verry little in the Cotton field one sick convalesent

20 Heavy Fogg - Finished making baskets Finished hoeing above at 9 - hoeing below since - Com'enced repairing my Gins - Cotton opening finely - shower rain 11. and hard rain at 12

oclock - More rain fell this evening than has fallen at one time this summer

21 Cloudy damp morning - Verry warm day threatning rain - ground verry wet - I saw two Rain bows at one time yesterday evening - Heard from A. G. Barrow. informing me of the Death of Mrs Walker. in St. Francisville - Mrs Desmont died last Saturday

22 Few clouds. cool winds from the East. Sent all hands (men) on the road - Cleaning scaffold yard - and hoeing at G<sup>ns</sup> since yesterday dinner - I have a first rate crop - from 20 to 150 grown Boles on a stalk - rain on Monday ruined What Cotten that was open - light rain lower part G<sup>ns</sup> on Monday

23 Clear. pleasant - women and children picking cotten to day - Com'enced last year on the 22<sup>d</sup> cotten more backward than it was last year, at least one weake - Killed four Pole cats yesterday under the Gin house

24 Finished working the roade yesterday highest picked yesterday was 145 avreage about 100 - men and women hoeing at G<sup>ns</sup> children sucklers & old women picking Cotten

25 Clear. beautifull weather - Finished hoeing G<sup>ns</sup> place - Last evening. hoeing below - Finished scraping below - one negro verry sick yesterday with cramp jack with his finger broke getting no better fast - Creasy with swelling on the in-step - improving - Cotten opening well two days past - Finished hoeing & scraping for this year

26 Clear pleasant - Counted on one stalk of Cotten 206 Boles on Friday 24.

27 Clear warmest morning for some days - 4 hands getting boards in the swamp - 4 house timber. some cleaning out & making scaffolds 41 picking cotten

28 Some clouds - Foggy - picked over Cotten above - Several showers to day

29 Clear morning hands picking Cotten - 8 Bales behind last years picking - Heavy rain yesterday at the G<sup>ns</sup> place - cotten worse blown down and broke since 1831 storm - hands picked well to day by dinner. bad picking at G<sup>ns</sup> 4 sick

30 Clear - pleasant - picking cotten below - appearance of greater rains than we had - this evening heavy rains here - first rain at night this summer M<sup>r</sup>. Turnbull & Family came up

31 Clear, verry warm - started one Gin yesterday after dinner - 5 sick



September 1 Clear warm - picking above best picking this year - 3 sick gave every cotton picker a light Whipping for picking trashy cotton

2 Clear wind North - and quit cool - sudden change - hands averaged higher yesterday than they have this year - 163 - upwards of 20 Bales out - Ten Bales behind last year & 30 Bales behind 1836 - difference in the season

3 Clear. quite cold. picking cotton <sup>GNS</sup> place - good picking - started all my Gins - don't like the appearance of my crop. most ragged looking crop I ever had. bent & broke down - 2 sick - 3 lame &c.

4 Clear wind East - cool. picking home (above) since dinner

5 Cloudy wind East - best picking today I've had this year - went to Ruffins with Family - and went in the swamp Killing Alligators<sup>44</sup> - after dinner went driving started two large Bucks in Wades field - stood on the road between Roberts and Ruffins - one came through - Sidney Flower took first Shot standing - neither of his shots were fatal - ran to me missed first fire second wounded him verry badly - ran short distance & stoped. nearly falling - Ruffin shot at him behind - ran short distance & fell - Hounds still after the other Deer - our shooting turned it Back - went in pursuit of the 1<sup>st</sup> one he jumped up some few steps from us - and ran a mile - by this time it was dark 4 dogs came to us and we followed it - jumped it between my field and the lower part Lane place - Came running directly to us - and had Ruffins Horse of stood would have touched him fired as it passed (missed) ran few steps. dogs bayed it - found him standing. erect head & tail up ready for battle - gave him another load. ran short distance dogs caught him - hour after night - verry Large and fat 4 prongs

6 Few clouds. cool mornings Took Jos Bell Fanny Bell & Grey Luzbourough colts of Lucillas up to train - allso Pressure & Dick Haile - a strong string - O. Jacob cut the end of his right Fore finger nearly off - two others slightly cut - with Broad ax - avreage 170 pound Cotton yesterday - appearance of rain to night sprinkle

7 Few clouds - wind East - fine picking. avreaged 183 yesterday - cotton 40 Bales out last night - 30 Bales behind last year at this time. went down to see John Joor his cotton has suffered verry much for want of rain

8 Cloudy warm - hand generally did not pick as well yesterday as day before - fine picking highest yesterday & this year 260. Atean small boy Owens the best boy I ever saw.

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<sup>44</sup> A not unusual sport for Louisiana planters.

9 Clear pleasant hands picked Finely yesterday averaged 209

10 Clear verry cool morning - upwards of 50 Bales out  
30 odd Gined picking G<sup>ns</sup> fine picking

11 Clear cool morning. Four first rate cotten pickers sick hands picked well yesterday Atean 300. Dave L. 310. highest this year - sent to Town after my Bagging & rope. waiting for it 3 weeks past - Knocked the blind Teeth out of my Grey Luzbourough Colt. Little Independence.

12 Clear cool mornings - 5 sick picking above - 20 Bales out at G<sup>ns</sup> pressing Home - the best cotten and best picking in upper new corn land cotten I ever saw

13 Clear cool morning - weighd cotten in the field - 5 sick Augue & Fever

14 Cloudy warm - most of the hands picked well yesterday highest 325 Atean - will have picked off of the new corn land above (50 acres) 25 Bales at least 50 Bales to pick - averaged yesterday 209 - 25 Bales pressed last night

15 Cloudy. sprinkling of rain - Hands picked higher yesterday than they have done this year - Avreaged 226 - Owens boy 13 years old picked 200 - best boy I ever saw. verry light sprinkle rain this evening.

16 Stormy looking day. great deal of rain last night and still raining - wind from the East. hands picked well yesterday highest average this year 234 1/2

17 dark & Cloudy - wind South - pressing G<sup>ns</sup> & home - women spinning men & trash gang trashing cotten and raising House - Between 90 & 100 Bales out. 49 Pressed 70 Gind in N<sup>o</sup>

18 Cloudy damp morning - some rain at noon. picking cotten since Breakfast - went driving with James Leak D<sup>r</sup>. Desmont and Sidney Flower. started two Fawns in my field. ran some time. dogs quit them.

19 Clear pleasant morning - 62 Bales pressed last night - Cotten bend down verry much from wind on Sunday - between 90 & 100 Bales out in N<sup>o</sup> - Went hunting in my field started 3 Deer. Killed a fine young Buck - Several joined me afterwards - went driving on the swamp - started a Deer dogs ran off - in coming out of the drive started a Bear. only one dog - he became too much frightend to do any thing

20 Clear pleasant picking P. Rice bottom - hands pick well considering the storm - several sick

21 Verry Foggy morning - com'enced hauling Cotten this morning - 1<sup>st</sup> shipment - Bales will avreage 470 lbs upwards of 100 out in N<sup>o</sup> 100 & 15 of 400. this time last year had out 125 - 25 behind last year. owing to the season - cotten more backward in opening - at first picking - never had Cotten picked more trashy than yesterday. And to day by dinner - some few picked badly - 5 sick & 2 children

22 Considerable rain before Breakfast, Appearance of a bad day - pressing - 4 sick - Caught Darcas with dirt in cotton bag last night. weighed 15 pounds - Tom Beauf picked badly yesterday morning Whiped him. few Cuts - left the field some time in the evening without his Cotten and have not seen him since - He is in the habit of doing so yearly. except last year Heavy rains during the day women spinning - trashing Cotten men & children - Tom B. showed himself - "sick" - Cotten picked since the storm looks verry badly - Cotten market opened this year at 13 & 13 3/4 cts - Bagging & cordage 20 & 24 and 8 1/2 & 9 cts - Porke from \$16 to \$24 a Barrel - Never com'ence hauling Cotten that it did'ent rain - worked the ford at Little Creek in the G<sup>ns</sup> field - Wind blowing cool from the North since 2 oclock - Here I am sitting with the Baby in my lap "Bennet B." Emily criticising the History of Georgia - Caroline and John at all Kinds of mischief

23 Clear verry cool wind from the North - nine degrees colder than yesterday morning - intend most of the hands to dry and trash Cotten to day. Frank Kish Henry & Isreal pressed Bales to day. \$1 each - Killed a Wild Cow this morning. as Fat as could well be

24 Clear quit cold - P. Dhoertys Gin House Burnt down on Friday night Last. light enough at my scaffold yard to read names & figures on the sleight - & at least 5 miles<sup>45</sup> - M<sup>r</sup> Tisdale our Trainer came down from K.y yesterday - had my cart wheels tired yesterday at Ruffins

25 Clear cool - went to Town - hauled 49 Bales to Ratliffs Landing yesterday - 12 to Town to day 61 in all - went driving yesterday Killed two Fawns - and one young Buck in my G<sup>ns</sup> field with the most singular Horns I ever heard of or Saw - verry fat - several sick. most this year

26 Clear pleasant weather. Shiped to day Eighty Bales Cotten. verry fine - 6 or 7 Lying up - picked badly for two days past - Cotten Selling 14 cts

27 Clear pleasant - went hunting in thw swamp in company

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<sup>45</sup> The parish was suffering from an epidemic of Gin House burning, fired evidently by slaves.

of D<sup>r</sup> Desmont J. Leake M. Courtney W H Barrow Pa<sup>t</sup> Doherty  
R D. Percey L Flower & M<sup>r</sup> Pain from Isle of Madeira - a large  
wine importer - verry Large - Killed 3 Deer. lost M<sup>r</sup> Pain.  
stayed untill after dark firing Guns &c. the old gentleman  
found the brier and Came up to Ruffins well scratched & bloody  
- he refused to call Leake by his name - having lost a cargo  
of Wine. Vessel springing a Leak

28 Cloudy cool wind from the North - jno Joor sent a  
hand up to exchange with me, yesterday, his hands pick verry  
badly - Dennis and Tom "Beauf" ran off on Wednesday - Dennis  
came in yesterday morning after I went hunting. "Sick" - left  
the Sick House this morning - if I can see either of them and  
have a gun at the time will let them have the contents of it -  
Dennis returned to the Sick House at dinner

29 Foggy morning - warm day A.G. Barrow D<sup>r</sup>. Walker & W<sup>m</sup>  
Munson stayed with me last night went Hunting to day Mun-  
son missed - Emily went to Woodville yesterday - Hands picked  
better yesterday than they have done since the storm - avreged  
200. Tom B. went to picking Cotten this morning - did'ent  
bring his Cotten to be weighed - came to me after I went to  
Bed

30 Clear pleasant weather - upwards of 130 Bales out in N<sup>o</sup>  
150 out of 400 lbs - Frank Isreal Henry & Wade pressed to  
day - 12 Bales - 110 pressed in N<sup>o</sup>

October 1 Clear pleasant - great deal of Cotten open -  
Hauled a House down to the Race track for our Trainer, M<sup>r</sup> Tis-  
dale - Bet Levi \$10 that Betsy & 'Lize would Each beat him 100  
lb<sup>s</sup> of Cotten this weake

2 Clear warm - went Hunting in the swamp in Company with  
Leake Courtny John Joor A G. Barrow Percey Doherty W Pain  
Killed 2 Deer - quite a Frollick

3 Clear warm - hands picking well this week

4 Clear verry warm - Alli Buxus & Caroline struck a Fox  
trail yesterday evening at a cotten Basket among the hands  
started it some time before dark ran it 'till 9 Oclock at  
night - "till I finished weighing Cotten". dogs were all fed -  
not with standing took them out and joined the two & never had  
a better race caught it quarter past Ten - dogs had been off  
all day running - avreaged over 220 lbs c. every day this weake

5 Clear cool morning

6 Clear pleasant mornings - warm after 9 Oclock. Com'enced  
hauling Cotten to Rat<sup>s</sup> Landing - sold my 1<sup>st</sup> shipment of 80  
Bales at 13 1/4 - badly sold - several sick for some days past  
- 256260 picked to night 175 or 180 out in N<sup>o</sup> between 185

& 200 out of 400 lbs - 160 Gined

7 raining - as usual Whenever I haul Cotten - Caught one of Mr Howells negros stealing Chickens last night - some stealing Potatoes. Escaped took him home this evening Howell absent<sup>to</sup>

8 Clear pleasant. Went Fox hunting this morning missing trail - Hands picked well to day - 223 <sup>lbs</sup> - each

9 Clear cold morning - picking Cotten upper new ground - the 50 Acres will make 75 Bales - Went to Town - Turnbull & family called here yesterday evening

10 Clear cool morning heavy dews. went Fox hunting started on 1/4 past 6. caught it one hour & Quarter Beautiful run

11 Clear cold morning. Frost Gave the negros shoes last night hands picked worse to day by dinner than they have done this year. Owens excepted, 146 Bales shipped - 205 out last night

12 Clear verry cold morning - hands picked worse yesterday than they have done this year. lowest avreage 157 - picked in the morning - in the bottom on L creek - rotten open long time - the same this morning - Whiped near half the hands to day for picking badly & trashy Tom Beauf came up and put his Basket down at the scales and it is the last I've seen of him - will Whip him more than I ever Whip one, I think he deserves more - the second time he has done so this year - light Frost yesterday and to day

13 Clear. Weather moderated verry much - Hands picked badly yesterday no more bottom, never saw more Cotten open at this Season - would make 550 Bales if nicely saved

14 Clear pleasant. Went Driving in the swamp yesterday Killed one Deer - threatning rain this evening

15 Cloudy cool wind from the North. light sprinkle of rain last night. hands got Potatoes yesterday - 215 B. 400 lbs 205 in <sup>NO</sup> yesterday - 220 to night - Cloudy cool wind from the North. Cleared off at 12 Oclock - fine day for picking Cotten - Caroline Joor has been with us for two weeks past & has rec<sup>ed</sup> considerable Flattery from the negros La miss you so pretty. Fills Jerry ran off this afternoon - weighed Cotten twice to day in the field - avreaged 185 at the second

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46 It will be noticed that Barrow did not punish his neighbor's slave, but left that matter to Mr. Howell. This was the common practice.

weighing - 223 at night.

16 Cool East wind verry disagreeable - picking Cotten G<sup>ns</sup> picked Cleaner Cotten than they have done for the last 4 weeks

17 raining this morning - appearance of bad weather - Wind from the East. Two hundred and thirty Bales out last night - of 400 lbs - 215 or 20 in N<sup>o</sup> Heavy rains during the day

18 raining this morning - verry warm no appearance of weather breaking - at least 100 Bales open in the field - places from 8 to 1200 weight to the Acre - 4 sick yesterday - spinning pressing, trashing Cotten & shelling corn - Candis child verry ill. week old - rainy day - shelled all old corn to day for Race Horses - 20 Barrels

19 Cloudy cold wind from the North - gathering Pond cut of corn - 332950 picked - now out 230 of 400 lbs & 200 pressed in N<sup>o</sup> - Cotten turns out better than last year

20 Cloudy cool - picking Cotten appearance of rain - gathered 12 Loads corn yesterday - turns out poorley - Son James went out Fox hunting with me this morning - bids fair to be a first rate Horseman - beautifull chase of 1/2 hour & caught it - G. Jerry did not weigh Cotten at 12 I think he has run off - Whiped about half to day. highest picked 115. wet at that - heavy rain till night.

21 Cloudy cool. great deal of rain Fallen since yesterday noon - Mrs Joor & Jno. Mayrant came down yesterday in the rain

22 Clear fine morning - Cleared off in the night

23 Cloudy morning cool - Cleared off at noon - fresh wind from the North - 245 Bales of 400 lbs out. 235 of 400 lbs pressed or 230 out in N<sup>o</sup> or more - yesterday & to day the best days for picking we have had for two weeks past. Emily went to See Mrs Joor at the plantation to day - avreaged yesterday 211. today 182.

24 Cloudy spring looking day - Jno- Mayrant drawing off my Acc<sup>t</sup> with Mrs Joor. went to Town

25 Clear pleasant. Sold 158 Bales of 400 lbs at 13 1/4 & 13 1/4. 265 Bales out to night of 400 lbs

26 Clear pleasant weather - Cotten picks verry trashy - Whiped 8 or 10 for weight to day - those that pick least weights generally most trash

27 Clear warm - picking Gns - Dennis ran off yesterday - & after I had Whiped him - hands picked verry light weight by

dinner - complaint picking in Rank & Rotten Cotton - 4 sick - have out 270 Bales or upward of 400. certain 250 or upwards out in N<sup>o</sup> by 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Will at least 30 Bales ahead of last year

28 Cloudy cool wind from the North. Misty - Ruffins overseer was over here this evening and informed me that his Home place hands avreaged 353 never heard any thing to Eaquel it - trashy as could be - my hands picked verry trashy yesterday evening. had a settlement with Mrs Joor & Estate - 275 B. out of 400 - 232 pressed in N<sup>o</sup> 255 of 400 pressed

29 Clear cold - Mrs Joor returned to Woodvill - Mrs Joors owes me \$13387.73. her notes payable in 5 years from Oct. 29. 1838

30 Clear. cool - Frost - hands picked badly and Trashy - yesterday

31 Clear pleasant. M<sup>r</sup> Warfield my Cotton merchant or "Factor" came home with me last night. looking through the Country for buisness - Com'enced as com<sup>h</sup> merchant this Fall - as Finley & Co. Verry much pleased with him as well as the sales of my cotton shipped 83 Bales this shipment - 229 in all. gain - 19 over. making 248 of 400.

November 1 Clear pleasant - hands are picking badly

2 Cloudy cool - Dennis came in sick on Tuesday - ran off again yesterday - without my ever seeing him - will carry my Gun & small shot for him - I think it will break him of his rascallity - hands picking better to day than they have done for some weeks

3 Cloudy - appearance of bad weather hands all running a race - "picking Cotton" - Hands avreaged higher to day than I ever had them to do. 191 1/2 by dinner - damp day

4 Cloudy cool - never had or heard of such picking as my hands picked yesterday Clean Cotton in the morning - usual Cotton in the evening - averaged 364 1/2. highest 622. lowest 225 - 42 pickers. 15311 lbs

5 Clear. pleasant morning - Cloudy since dinner - 300 Bales out to night - 320 out of 400 - Dennis still runaway

6 Cloudy damp - Hands picking well. & in better spirits than they have been this year. avreage yesterday 227 1/4.

7 Cloudy - raining since yesterday 5 Oclock - in torrents during the night. appearance of breaking away - Cotton selling from 10 to 15<sup>cts</sup> this crop - Dennis came in last night - had him fasted - attempted to Escape. ran as far as the creek but

was caught - the D<sup>S</sup> rascal on the place - spinning trashing Cotten &c.

8 Cloudy cold & verry windy - gathering corn

9 Clear verry cold ground Frozen ice &c. drying some Cotten seed - picking Cotten since Breakfast. digging Potatoes since dinner & Cutting Sugar cane - 325 Bales out. certain of 400 - 70 at least open - now. good many boles to open say 50 Bales - Killing Frost this morning

10 Cloudy. & wind from the East. cool

11 Clear wind East. Potatoes Large and Fine - turning out tolerable - I think I can have out 400 Bales by 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

12 Cloudy warm - wind East - picking this side of L creek verry White & as trashy as can well be - I have 4 hound pups of Beautys & Buxus - & one Rambler. verry fine. feeding them on mush & milk - they do better on it, than any thing Ive ever tried - 3 of Ky . . . Rambler & Buxus verry fine looking

13 rainy night - still appears lik continuing, verry warm - races "Fall" com'ence to day at B Sara - M<sup>r</sup> Warfield<sup>47</sup> came from N. Orleans last night - Cotten on the decline 1/4 pr ct

14 raining rainy - Haralsons won the match to day. Mile Heats 203. 204

15 raining &c. D<sup>r</sup> Ira Smith won his match to day

16 rainey - Capt Cross of the army won the creole purse to day

17 Cloudy verry cold - Iras Smith the meanest man in the State - won the two mile dogs. nothing to comitt - Cloudy verry cold - nothing can be done - went back to day to the races - last day. Dick Haile won we Entered. & Cascade of Smiths

18 Some clouds verry cold - 300 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup> 330 out of 400 lbs picked only 25 Bales in near 3 weeks - never saw worse weather than we have had for 3 weeks past in Nov<sup>r</sup> at least 100 open in the field - about the same N<sup>o</sup> of Bales out that I had last year. owing to uncom'on bad weather - Finished digging Potatoes - great many rotten 30 hills in all

19 Clear verry cold Frost like snow. freezing

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<sup>47</sup> Barrow's factor.



20 Clear cold morning - Shipped 303 Bales in all - went down to see Pressure - Jos. Bell. Little independence (a Grey) & Rachel Jackson Filly ran a trial - track verry heavy - Pressure ran 2 mile & repeat - 1<sup>st</sup> mile 204 next 205. 2 miles in 409 - second Heat in 4.14 - Jo<sup>s</sup> Bell 2 miles & repeated one - 1<sup>st</sup> mile in 159. 2<sup>d</sup> in 219 2 miles in 4"8 - 2<sup>d</sup> Heet - one mile in 204 - bothe verry Fat - the two colts & their 1<sup>st</sup> run - the Grey beat the Filly 20 yds and the worst rode horse I ever saw - time one mile 2.12 - not pushed - 20 lbs over weight 80 lbs instead of 60 - Little Independence (Grey) I think will make a game race Horse-- verry muck like his dam - Lucilla as game a nag as ever I saw - 4 mile Heats or any distance and by imp Luzbourough

21 Clear cold morning - I fear Ive lost Vene the prettiest hound in the Parish

22 Clear cold morning - beautifull weather - as the Yankey should say

23 Clear pleasant.

24 Foggy morning - Went driving My nephew R H Barrow here last night - Ruffin shot a Large Buck in N<sup>o</sup> one drive - shot one eye out. the Deer ran at him blind side & knocked him - side of his horns hitting him only. I came up - he shot again as he came at him - missed he ran us both round & round - the 3 hounds & one cur hanging to him - we each gained a large tree - the Deer took off I after him - on horse back dogs stoped him some short distance - went up to shot him - dogs pointed, 'till he came so near me as to compell me to shoot in self defence shot his under jaw off as I jumped behind a tree - after a while I found a chance to shoot him in the head & end his life - after some verry narrow escapes - 5 prongs - verry fat & Large - My nephew Robt. H. Barrow along - Robt. J. B. sent me two verry fine pups - B. Laws

25 Clear cool wind from the North.

26 Clear pleasant - hands picked finely on Saturday - Avrege 295 every day Cotten

27 Cloudy. warm - Three hundred and Fifty five Bales out in N<sup>o</sup> 360 of 400 100 to pick - sold 248 at 13 1/4 - 13 & 12 5/8

28 Cloudy cool. went Driving

29 Clear cold - sudden change last night.

30 Clear Cold - Coming from Hunting this morning W<sup>m</sup> Joor or baby Bill rode on one of my hounds ("Alpha" the best blooded & pretiest hound I ever saw - ) & I fear he has killed her -

shall Leave Home in the morning for New Orleans races &c.

December 20 Returned Home from New Orleans two Weeks races - Pressure was beaten twicet verry fat & out of order - Jos Bell won the 2 mile day easy & verry fat - poor running generally - verry cold & bad weather during my absence - Three hundred & sixty six Bales shiped in N<sup>o</sup> 25 or 30 to pick

21 Clear verry cold

22 Clear cold

25 Cloudy cold stormy wind from the North - will make between 450 & 500 Bales of 400 lbs 328 Bales sold of 400 lbs 369 shiped in N<sup>o</sup>

24 Clear verry Cold - hands went to Town payed them last night \$500 - Cotten selling from 10 to 17 cts - sold mine from 12 1/2 to 13 1/4 - same Cotten would bring 13 1/2 & 14.

25 Sprinkle of rain at day light - Appearance of Bad Weather

26 Cloudy verry cold - John Joor & John Barrow came up

27 Cloudy cold

28 Verry heavy rain this afternoon - A. G. Barrow jno. Barrow jno Joor & S. Flower here since yesterday

29 Cloudy cold wind from the North the worst Christmast in great many years - weather Bad - times hard

30 Cleared off last night as cold as can be - the negros behaved badly last night at their supper - Demps gave his wife Hetty a light cut or two & then locked her up to prevent her going to the Frolick - I reversed it turning her loose & fastening him.

31 Clear verry cold - negros putting themselves & houses to rights

1839

January 1 Cloudy wind from the East - went driving against my wish

2 rainy morning - wind East. Gathering corn since dinner

3 Raining - raining - The worst winter & latter part Fall I have recollection of - 365 Bales shipped & sold from 12 <sup>cts</sup> to 13 1/4 - never made as Bad Cotten, 60 more to send - News came to day of the Last weakes racing in N. Orleans - the Brag - race Horse Wagner was Beaten the 4 mile day by Zelina - Belong to Taylor. she beat Pressure the last race he ran

4 Cloudy cold - Finished gathering corn yesterday - hauling to day - 3 cribs Full - 2 smaller ones & one Large one. one Large one two 3<sup>ds</sup> full - Whiped evry hand in the field this evening comencing with the driver<sup>48</sup>

5 Cloudy appearance of rain - went to Town

6 Clear pleasant. best & most pleasant day in 6 Weeks

7 Cloudy Warm Wind South - hands picked well to day  
235 highest

8 Cloudy Warm

9 Cloudy warm picking G<sup>ns</sup> place. Shipping from B Sara 30 Bales. 400 in N<sup>o</sup>. left Home for New Orleans

21 Clear verry cold. returned from N. Orleans - Comenced ploughing to day with 10 ploughs - there never was such hard times as their is N Orleans at this time - Money 2 to 4 p<sup>t</sup> cent a month. & Scarce at that - Cotten firm from 10 to 17 1/2 <sup>cts</sup>

22 Clear. verry cold - Women spinning Clearing up - Men getting rails pickets - chopping Logs &c. brought with me from N Orleans two spotted Hounds - Seaman & Pet from Battim

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<sup>48</sup> As a rule drivers were punished as infrequently as possible.

or sent by J S. Skinner - "two died" - Editor of the American Turf Register & Sporting Magazine<sup>49</sup>

23 Cloudy verry cold - Finished ploughing for oats - ploughing old corn Land above for Cotten 4 Furrows

24 Cloudy Cool - Went to Town - hawling My last Cotten - 37 Bales, rainy evening

25 rain rain raining

26 Clear cool & pleasant - Women spinning - Men getting House timber rails &c.

27 Clear pleasant

28 Cloudy warm - Went Driving with E. M<sup>C</sup>Dermott James Leake & S Flower started two Deer. E M<sup>C</sup>D. not at his Stand. nor I Where I ought to have been &c.

29 Cloudy warm - threatning rain - Comenced ploughing for corn - 16 ploughs running - disappointed in getting My ploughs Made last year in N<sup>O</sup>. 443 Bales - 480 of 400 lb plenty of Corn - 8 Bales to every thing that works in the field - Never was such hard times in this Country as it has been since 1<sup>st</sup> of December last. the Banks are all reinstated - probably Money will be plenty in a few weeks - Money in N. Orleans as high as 4 p<sup>r</sup> cent a month - 18 P<sup>r</sup> ct. a year - the Mississippi river lower in Decembr 1838 than the present inhabitants every saw it - the Mouth of Red River 6 inches Deep - the Island below Rat<sup>h</sup>liff Landing - not more than 3 feet water between it & land this side .

30 Rainey day - Cool - Wind from the East

31 raining - no appearance of breaking off - cold

February 1 Cleared off last night - cold - rolling Logs - women & few men

2 Cloudy verry Cold

3 Morning Clear. Cold

4 Cloudy cold - appearance of bad weather - Bought 15 new ploughs - of Laurell Hill make - rainey day - Mrs. Bridges died yesterday - very old - Lingerig for a Long time

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<sup>49</sup> Skinner founded the American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine in 1829, and in 1839 sold his interests to William T. Porter, of the Spirit of the Times, a weekly sporting journal.

5 rainy day cold

6 Ground covered with snow & still sleeting - verry cold - My crop Amounted to \$22705 06 1838 - Avreage Sales 12 1/2 cts

7 Rainey morning - no appearance of Clearing up - Great number of Wild Geese - turned warm - since 2 o'clk raining hard

8 rainy night - wind getting round to the West - Quite sick last night - cold &c.

9 Cloudy - Wind from the North making fences - women spinning trash gang stopping washes - Bought 15 ploughs of Norman - they are verry inferior - will offer him one or two Dollars (each) to take them back - News from New Orleans speake of better times - Verry much pleased with W<sup>m</sup> H. Barrow Steam mill - Ginning Grinding & sawing by steam - Jones Patent Gins - are Ginning by Steam from 5 to 10 Bales a day, Sixty Saws

10 Cloudy - cold - Wind North - never saw - as many Geese at once as there is in the bottom field today

11 Clear cold morning - day very pleasant - Finished rolling Logs

12 Clear verry pleasant - Went to a party - Given at Cap<sup>t</sup> Howells last night - Danced 'till day light verry pleasant - Evry one appearing to enjoy themselves - half a days ploughing for corn after to day

13 Clear delightfull weather - sowing oats - Comenced ploughing for Cotten Burning Logs - old Land that was in corn last year the worse ploughing I ever had

14 Clear verry pleasant - Went Fox hunting this morning - Caught two Cats - never got in so many difficulties before - water mud brieers & every thing else that the Miss<sup>pn</sup> swamp produces &c. Son John & the Baby quite sick to day - Colds fever &c.

15 Clear pleasant 20 Double ploughs running all this month - Never had my Horses & mules in as fine order to Comence with - Went down to see a trial run with the Horses - Verry much pleased with Tisdale both as a trainer & man - Jos Bell ran in trial with Picqune one mile - Jos Beat her Easy in 159 the Grey Cold (Lucillas) ran with Alexander Campbell - 159 - Grey behind about 20 feet - fine run for a two y<sup>r</sup> old. and with a cold - track deep - I Believe Jos Bell is the Best Horse in the United States - First rate any distance - 125 Acres of Land ploughed for Cotten - 4 Furrows - the Baby much better - John allso - Mrs Joor Left this morning for Woodville - M<sup>r</sup> Groosbeck of Cincinnati married my niece Rosina Benoist. was

to see me yesterday - did'ent see him was out hunting

16 Clear, Morning quite Cool - Left Home for New Orleans this morning

March 4 returned from New Orleans to day verry cold day. weather generally fine during my absence - 20 ploughs running times are verry hard in N. Orleans Money loaning at 18 p<sup>r</sup> ce.<sup>t</sup> Cotton selling from 12 to 18 cts Meet from 15 to 20 p<sup>r</sup> barrel

5 Clear verry cold - Finished runing four furrows all Home place & half of Gns - carts done nothing during my absence - nor the carpenters

6 Weather moderating verry much - send 10 ploughs back to be widened at the heel - I Bought a pair of colts Patent Pistols fire 5 times Each Barrel - \$45

7 Hazy morning - went to Town - Com'enced breaking out middles for corn

8 Foggy morning - pleasant - appearance of spring - Com'enced planting corn - 10 Oclock. never saw a more pleasant day

9 Clear pleasant

10 Foggy morning - Covering corn with ploughs in the water Furrow intend running the Harrows over it as soon as it begins to sprout. (or after a rain)

11 Cloudy verry warm - Martins appeared to day - Finished running round four furrows & Finished planting Corn - Breaking out Middles this Evening

12 Left Home this morning for New Orleans races - Heavy rain

April 1 Returned Home this Evening weather delightfull Com'enced planting Cotten Last Tuesday 4 Harrows

2 Clear pleasant - Jos Bell ran 4 mile Heats in N. Orleans against Waggner the best Horse in the South - Jos won the 1<sup>st</sup> Heat and drew him - walked for 3 mile day \$1500. & won the 3 mile on the Metairie Course - purse \$1200 - fine sport during the races - found evry thing going on very well at Home - Finished breaking middles at Home place breaking out Gns Com'enced hoeing Corn yesterday morning - never saw such a stand of corn - looks well

3 Cloudy pleasant - Finished Hoeing new ground corn by Dinner - hoeing old Land - R. Coons verry bad

4 Fine spring morning Finished planting above 12 0 -  
planting Gns

5 Cloudy pleasant Cotten coming up - dropping cotten  
covering with rakes - "Hand"

6 Cloudy pleasant - Finished breaking out Middles to  
night - Finished planting Gns to 25 acres - 100 to plant in all  
Cotten coming up verry well - raining light since dust - Ap-  
pearance of rainy night - Pork selling from \$16 to \$20. Cot-  
ten from 10 to 18 cts Both Dull

7 Cloudy - wind East - Fine rain for cotten - Last night -  
Heavy wind this Evening

8 Cloudy pleasant. appearance of clearing up - ploughing  
for sweet Potatoes - seeding corn - ground wet ploughing corn  
1<sup>st</sup> time Looks verry well

9 Clear - verry pleasant - Finished planting Cotten at Gns  
planting Penrice & L Gate piece

10 Cloudy - Finished planting Cotten this morning. 130  
acres up & fine stand - Went to a Ball last night. Given at  
Douces - dull for the want of good music - Wade was there with  
his Daughter Francina & his half sister Laura Wade - he was a-  
shamed of her - Francina treated her verry meanly - in company  
with numbers of her relations & never offered to introduce her  
to one - Mean blood will show itself - "dadys child" Betsy  
Ratliff deserves a little, she never introduced her - Miss  
Wade is much the Handsomest of either "Jealousy" - Light  
shower this morning - the Mumps made their appearance on the  
plantation a month since - still here

11 Cloudy Warm. Finished seeding corn - Hoeing new  
ground corn second time

12 Clear pleasant. Went Fishing at Ratliffs Lake - with  
Mrs A Barrow Mrs Ruffin Barrow & Miss Crab of Tennessee  
pleasant day

13 Clear verry pleasant - Finished ploughing corn 1<sup>st</sup>  
time - Barring off Cotten since Breakfast - Cotten coming up  
well

14 Clear delightfull weather - George Joor's wife "Laura"  
died last Sunday at Vixburge & was buried at his mothers, near  
Woodville on thursday Last - Leaving two Daughters

15 Clear pleasant - making fence around Quarter re-  
planting small piece of Cotten - seed spoilt - Scraping corn  
Gns bottom - Emily returned from Woodville.

16 Clear Pleasant - went down [to St. Francisville] to see my two colts tried - the Grey colt "Laurent" ran verry well

17 Clear warm - returned from Town to day - Finished hoeing corn 1<sup>st</sup> time by 3 ock - making Potatoes ridges

18 Foggy morning - warm Times harder than Ever meet from \$17 to \$22 - Cotten selling from 10 ~~Qts~~ to 18 1/2

19 Cloudy verry warm - Went to Town.

20 Cloudy verry warm - Emily taken Sick last night - sent for me in Town - returned Home after 2 O. in the night - brought Dr. McKelney out with me - Com'enced scraping Cotten yesterday - ground verry dry - Every thing wants rain

21 Cloudy warm - Emily quit well this morning

22 Clear verry warm - ground verry dry bad scraping

23 Cloudy morning - went to Town verry dusty - want rain verry much

24 Clear cool morning - Races com'ence to day - Laurent 2 yrs old ran two mile Heats - against the nag horse Threshley - 1<sup>st</sup> Heat a dead Heat - Laurent lost the 2<sup>d</sup> & we drew him distanced some colt from Tunes

25 Clear verry warm Guy Doe won to day 3 mile Heats beating Dr. Ira Smiths Filly no race

26 Clear Hot - Jos Bell started to day 4 mile Heats against Kavenaugh & won the 1<sup>st</sup> Heat in a gallop - 2<sup>d</sup> Heat broke down in running a mile & in a gallop a head - ruined for Ever

27 Cloudy Hot - Guy Doe walked for the purse to day - best 3 in 5 - my Hands worked verry badly - so far general Whipping yesterday - made a race to day mile Heats against Clinton - with my bay Filley by Luzborough won it Easey

28 Clear verry warm

29 Cloudy verry warm - Finished scraping cotten above - 320 acres - by Dinner - half over - looks well corn verry good half leg to knee high

30 Cloudy verry warm - sprinkle rain in the night - 13 ploughs running - light shower at Eleven - appearance of rain

May 1 Left Home this morning for New Orleans - appearance of rain

6 Returned from N. Orleans verry cool nights - hot sun -



some rain during my absence - most persons suffering very much for rain - great many sick during my absence - Finished scrap-  
ing Cotten this morning Breakfast

7 Clear morning Cool - never had a better prospect for a large crop both corn & cotten - looks verry fine - corn from knee to waist high - Cotten limbing out - There never was such hard times in the money market - Money in N. O. as high (in some instances) at 3 p<sup>ct</sup>. a day - & 24 per cent a year - scarce at that - Pork at \$18 & \$22 & rising - Cotten from 10 to 18 cts dull - Moulded cotten with ploughs one furrow old corn land above

8 Clear pleasant - ploughing & hoeing corn 2<sup>d</sup> time since the 5<sup>th</sup> planting small piece bottom land, in corn - would like to sell my land verry much - and move - God knows Where - for I dont<sup>so</sup> - longer scraping Cotten this year than ever I was - 14 days - more in - & old land verry hard, mumps &c. I have 12 as fine blood & as fine looking hound pups as ever I saw - Finished ploughing corn this evening 2<sup>d</sup> time looks fine

9 Clear pleasant - Finished hoeing Corn 2<sup>d</sup> time by 9 O'clock - several sick - Jos Bell got Home yesterday - Leg verry Large - Commenced hilling cotten after Breakfast

10 Cloudy warm - Light rain at noon - Mrs Haile came down to day

11 Heavy rain above last night - appearance of a fine day - pleasant - turned cool - wind East - James sick slight - repairing pasture fence - Never saw better prospect for a crop Cotten from 4 inches to 10 inches high well set made Lot adjoining Jos Bells

12 Clouds verry low - & verry warm morning - Caroline sick - James well

13 Clear cold morning - windy & from the North - very sudden change - Ten days ahead of last years work - three courses for Dinner to day - over full - and a fit subject for the Fev-  
er during the next 24 hours

14 Clear, morning cold - Finished moulding Gns with ploughs one furrow - by 3 Oclock

15 Clear - morning cold - Finished moulding Cotten one furrow - by Dinner - Finished hilling above

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50 Barrow's complaints were typical of the South. Many plant-  
ers wished at various times to change locations, but few were  
ever able to sell at prices high enough to justify the diffi-  
culties of a change in location.

16 Cloudy verry warm - stayed at Williams last night - breaking out Middles since yesterday dinner. light sprinkle this Evening

17 Clear, verry warm morning - Heavy wind from the North at 6 light rain till dark - sprinkle at 12 - appearance of a rainy night

18 Cloudy Damp - Light rain last night - Negros holliday to day - could have Finished Hilling Cloudy verry warm - negros holliday to day - could have Finished Hilling Cotten by Monday Breakfast - looks fine - and in beautifull order. light rain this evening heavy rain below

19 Cloudy warm - verry Damp Fine shower at 2 oclock - Went Driving - Falkner killed fat Doe

20 Morning Clear - warm day - Finished hilling G<sup>ns</sup> by 1/2 9 oclock worked small piece young corn - verry little rain upper side plan<sup>tn</sup> and lower part G<sup>ns</sup>. cotten 6 inches to 14 inches high. verry fine - corn from hip to 7 feet high. looks fine.

21 Clear verry warm - Finished hilling Cotten - Darcas & Fanny are the greatest shirks of any negros I have - laid up twicet a month - Went to Town man tried for Whipping a negro to Death. trial will continue till to morrow - deserves death - Cleared!<sup>51</sup>

22 Foggy morning - verry warm going over Cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time, Finished breaking out middles above by 10 O-k

23 Foggy morning - started 4 more ploughs - 24 in all - Left Home this morning with family for Woodvill

26 Clear verry Hot - returned from Woodvill this evening by way of Perceys creek. Emily at her mothers - came off without the keys of the Eating appartm'nts - never was in such a hilly country for planting - as near Fort Adams & Peys creek<sup>52</sup> Mrs Hails place & E<sup>s</sup>

27 Clear verry warm - my best pup died during my absence - allways the case - best one never raised - Ploughing corn evry other row - looks verry fine thined 50 Acres - Cotten verry fine - from 8 inches to knee high - 7 sick - 5 with Mumps - Old Jacob the meanest negro I own - D-d<sup>st</sup>. rascal - and his sister Lucy. "B."

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<sup>51</sup> A very significant entry as it indicates the moral fibre of Barrow.

<sup>52</sup> Small villages in Southwest Mississippi. Fort Adams was important as a cotton-shipping point.

28 Clear cool morning - verry dry 7 sick mumps

29 Clear cool morning - went to Town last night - Finished ploughing corn every other row - by dinner hoing corn since yesterday 10 O-k giving Maria Physice - for Scroffula - Left Home this evening - ploughing cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time one furrow - & scrapers

June 2 Clear verry warm returned from Woodville this evening W<sup>m</sup> Joor with me James & John - Emily better than she has been for some days - suffering for rain - sevl sick - mumps - cramp - scroffula &c.

3 Fine shower this morning - hilling Potatoes - stoped scrapers planting Peas. all hands - covering them with ploughs - Cotten verry fine - from 8 inches to knee high - bluming for some days - Corn verry fine - hilling Potatoes running four furrows round Cotten

4 Cloudy - shower last night - great deal of Lightning - Jos Bell<sup>s</sup> leg is improving verry fast

5 Cloudy verry warm returnd from Woodville - jno Liddell came down with me - verry dry - bugs Eating cotten verry much - bad stand in lower field - fine cotten above Caroline Joor has been Engaged to a D. Yankey. but interfernce of her brothers has broken it off - their conduct & mine has provoked her Mother (M<sup>rs</sup>. Joor) verry much - verry mad at me - suspected my motive - can never forget it - having been a strong friend in every respect &c.

9 Cloudy Hot morning - left Home this evening for Woodvill

15 returned from Woodville last night Son Bat., quit sick during the week Cotten above looks well - finely formd from Knee to hip high hilled all 2<sup>d</sup> time & nearly over 3<sup>d</sup> time - never saw a crop in better order - but as dry as can be - corn & cotten both suffering for rain - G<sup>ns</sup> cotten better than common Excepting lower corner - bad stand - Cotten in full bloom - great many boles size of Pignons Eggs - shower at Eleven O - hard shower on one half the plantation after Dinner - heavy rain over the creek

16 Morning clear - Left Home for Woodville

29 Returnd from Woodvill - with Family Son Bat., been ver-ry ill for the last two weeks - recovering but slow bowel complaint inflamation &c. very warm & dry a Duel took place on the 27 - between Fielding Davis & Henry Moore of Wilk<sup>s</sup> County M<sup>t</sup> Moore was killed at the word one - 50 yds with Rifles - it was owing to an affray that took place some time since in Woodville - Leigh of Va - challenged Davis for

no cause Whatever - Moore too[k] the challenge - Davis told him he would answer him in the morning Moore then observd it was cowardly Evasin - Davis then struck him with his Whip - breaking his nose &c. some What of General fight took place - Davis supposing it was all over retir'd to the Post Office - having found that Leigh intended to kill him armed himself - in a few minuts saw Leigh coming towards him in a great hurry - he told him to stop or he would shoot him - Leigh rushed at him with a sword cane drawn - Davis snaped both caps of his gun - then with it knocked Leigh down and could have killed him supposing he had injured him verry much threw down the gun and started off - but had taken but few steps before Leigh was at him again - he then retreated 'till he got his pistol out which was Entangled in his breast. whirald & fired & hit Leigh in the small of the Back - Leigh had fallen in pursuit of Davis but was getting up When Davis fired - he is Expected to die evry day. perfectly dead from the wound downwards - Davis is justified in every act. Moore published him & before Davis had time to reply he challenged him & got his due<sup>53</sup> - Never had or saw as fine a crop as I have at this time 8 & 10 grown boles on a stalk from knee to breast high - limbs lying on the ground. corn looks well considering the drought - there has not been a wetting rain since the 6 of April near 3 months. if all the rain were to fall at once - that has fallen since that time - it would not wet the ground in its present condition - Light rain at noon barely laid the dust - Pat Doherty round my crop this evening - perfectly delighted with my mode of cultivation & crop - best by far he has seen

30 Cloudy Damp - shower at Dark - Com'enced on new crib of corn 27. two large ones out one small one full & 2.30s of the other - never saw finer Potatoo patch - no one elses that I've seen are more than began to Even - I've hilled mine over & now the beds entirely covered again

July 1 Clear pleasant morning June Peaches just ripe - Water mellons 17<sup>th</sup> - but small - making Picket fence - some getting out boards & Pickets - scrapers & ploughs running - Getting Basket Timber<sup>54</sup> Jos Bell looks better than I ever saw him

2 Clear verry warm - Finished ploughing & scraping gns  
4<sup>th</sup> time runing scrapers in P. R. field 10 ploughs in Race

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53 The practice of dueling appeared early in the American colonial period, grew slowly during British control, and came of age during the Revolution. It spread rapidly in the South, aided especially by the plantation system and a servile black race. It began to decline in the North early in the Middle Period, but disappeared from the South only after the War for Southern Independence.

54 Basket making was an important plantation industry.

field - M<sup>rs</sup> Woodard came do n yesterday. Have 12 verry fine young Hound pups - sent Ben. Joor 4 Hounds old one - Byron Ring & Beauty - Rock "going on"

3 Clear verry warm - M<sup>rs</sup> Woodward returned to Woodville - George & William Joor came down

4 Clear verry warm - Went Driving killed one Deer - shower at one O. Caroline sick - Eating mellons & Fruit - Bat improving slowly - ploughing old land above - Cotten open to day

5 morning Clear & warm - com'enced making Baskets - on the 2<sup>d</sup> "Tuesday" - John sick this morning - shower at noon

6 Clear verry warm morning - stoped ploughs running scrapers Son Bat improving - Caroline sick never saw greater appearance of rain since 5 O" - incessant Lightning North E. & South

7 Cloudy morning - Heavy rains arround me this morning - light sprinkle Here

8 Morning Clear & warm - Working Peas - Cotten open on the 4<sup>th</sup> 3 Boles found - Getting post for G<sup>ns</sup> Gin House - shower at 10 Oc" - scraping Cotten side at a time never saw such limbed & boled Cotten - from 5 to 50 Boles on a stalk - M<sup>rs</sup> Woodard came this morning to Breakfast & returned to jno. N. Evans

9 Clear verry warm day - repairing Houses chimneys &c. 3 sick &c. Fine rain to the East.

10 Very warm morning - Went to Town - returned to dinner - several fine rains in Town

11 Clear verry Warm - Hoeing & scraping above - put Randal to Learn Basket making - rain to day in North South East & West but none here - there has been but one rain since the 6 of April that would wet the ground an inch

12 Cloudy appearance of rain - one of jno. Joors boys sick here - 4 of mine sick Heavy rain at 11 O - lasted 15 minutes ground in fine order for work

13 Dark Cloudy Morning - verry warm - shower at noon on part place - the rain yesterday did not Extend over more than half the plantation Cotten has not improved any in two weeks - not as good as it was this time last year - Fine rain at 2 Oc

14 Raining verry hard at day light - appearance of a rainy day - the most rain that has fallen since March - Great deal of

water fallen since yesterday ground very wet - wind blew quit fresh short time this evening. Cotten in new land bent considerable inspected my Quarter this evening found it generally in good order - Oney Jenny Jerry G. Bartley Sam & Wash - the most careless negros I have - sun set clear

15 Morning Clear & cool - planting Potatoe slips - putting new posts under G<sup>ns</sup> gin house

16 Clear cool morning - hoeing & ploughing G<sup>ns</sup> - saving great many ice Rine Water Melon seed for different persons - verry superior kind

17 Clear verry pleasant - fine grass coming up - & tie Vines - I don't think I ever saw more forms fall off of Cotten than has fallen in the last week - cotten has not grown any in two weeks or more. Race track cotten most of it verry inferior small - worked more than any piece on the place - Cotten at G<sup>ns</sup> from knee to breast high new land & Temussa cut verry fine. Home from knee to breast high - all above verry good Except part Race-cut - pond cut & line new ground as good as I ever saw it

18 Cloudy morning wind East - Son Bat improving verry fast - Turning quit cool since day light - Appearance of a long & general rain - com'enced at 10 O

19 Cloudy Damp morning - great quantity of rain fallen since yesterday morning - women spinning - men repairing chimneys & getting out timber for House shed. 3 sick with mumps gave L. Dave a good Whipping for some of his rascallity intend chaining him & Jack nights & Sunday till I think they are broke in - to behave

20 Cloudy morning - all hands hoeing corn or new ground above - ground verry much washed - tie Vines and fine grass pretty thick - Alfred my Driver has had the mumps for two days past - Cotten has from ten to 50 grown Boles on a stalk - When ever there is any soil - weather favorable from this will make fine crops. light shower at sun set

21 Few clouds verry warm - Gave G. Jerry Sam Wash & Bartley Bagging shirts to wear - instead of shirt & pants<sup>55</sup>

22 Clear morning ploughing Race T cut - stoped ploughs ground verry wet - dont like the looks of the Cotten this morning - bluming at the Top small & looks toughf - good many boles open - more than I ever saw before the 5 of August.

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<sup>55</sup> A rather unusual form of punishment evidently used by Barrow with a great deal of effectiveness.

23 Clear warm Went to Town - M<sup>r</sup> Warfield came out with me

24 Clear verry warm - Jerard Richardson sent me 5 young hound pups - fearfull they will all die some thing like the Distemper

25 Morning Clear verry warm Fine grass & Tie Vines ver-ry thick - Appointed overseer of the road<sup>56</sup> - swamp road - I hope the time will come When every Overseer in the country will be compelled to addopt some other mode of making a living - they are a perfect nuisance cause dissatisfaction among the negros - being more possessed of more brutal feelings - I make better crops than those Who Employ them

26 Morning Cloudy & warm - Commenced pulling Fodder yesterday morning - Hoeing to day - I am perfectly disgusted with two thirds of my crop - knee high & done growing, some places few forms - all new land at G<sup>as</sup> verry fine - the Gin House bent & all below the House miserable stuff - Race T. Gin & Pond cut at Home done - from 5 to 30 Boles on a stalk 5 sick - sprinkle rain this evening

27 Few clouds - pleasant - Finished ploughing above Except 50 Acres new ground - Finished hoeing L Gate cut & P. R new ground. ploughing peas

28 Few clouds. verry hot weather for the last week

29 Clear pleasant breeze from the West - all hands pulling Fodder since Breakfast - B. J. B the greatest Libertine I ever knew - prowling the country of nights & Sundays - hard rain for 30 minutes at 2 Oclock - wet great deal of Fodder

30 Morning clear - sun hot - Wind from the North - hoeing R. T. verry grassy & never had as many tie Vines on cotten, owing to carless hoeing during my absence - my Driver sick - effects of the mumps - 4 sick slight - My favorite Hounds with very bad caught - swallowed something - taking up Fodder this evening

31 Morning clear verry warm 15 ploughs running this week - stacking and pulling Fodder since Breakfast - have pulled & saved 13 stacks of Fodder to day - cotten this side L creek verry fine all new land will do well

August 1 Morning clear warm - Capt. Tigner had picked on the 26 July 130 lbs. of cotten - one hand - I could have had

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<sup>56</sup> For the duties of road overseer see Code of Police, West Feliciana Parish, 1824.

more than that picked to day - too much grass & Vines - took some of Peters Pills much pleased with them - hard rain this evening wet all Fodder pulled since yesterday evening - Never will attempt to save Fodder again if I have other work to do - more trouble & uneasiness than it is worth

2 Damp Foggy morning sultry - hoeing above - Finished ploughing above - ploughing G<sup>ns</sup>. Went over to Ruffins our colts came from Tennessee Eight of them, 5 as fine colts as ever came to this country - the best I ever saw - Luzborough Medocs & Lusthen & Mermom, and Bertrand out of Lucilla Jenney Devers Guy Henry Mare and Piano. in coming home hard rain on me from Ruffins gate wet every rain - grass & Vines running a race - pulling up tie Vines since dinner too wet to hoe or plough

3 Cloudy warm & damp - ground verry wet. rain at noon - never saw hands hoe better than they did yesterday saw that I was in earnest &c.

4 Cloudy damp morning - Emily quite sick last night. turned the two Luzborough Filleys in the corn field - Emily confined this morning

5 Morning clear and warm - M<sup>rs</sup> Woodward went Home this morning - as Good a woman as lives in any country. never had as mean a crop - old Land at Home and two 3<sup>ds</sup> of G<sup>ns</sup> place

6 Clear warm morning - Emily quit sick last night. pains &c. L. Dave taken verry sick last night. violent pains in left side &c. ought to have been picking cotten a week ago - compelled to hoe over my crop - or the tie Vines & grass will destroy it - Sister Martha came up this morning - judge Wades driver was killed by one of his men - in attempting to Whip him - Which proves What I've often said - that it is wrong to allow a driver to use any authority - but to report injustice to him the negros in general - & yourself - negros are not Capable of self government - want of discretion - judgment &c.

7 Morning clear & verry warm - light rain last Evening - heavy rain below - sent for D<sup>r</sup> Percey yesterday evening - Emily much better this morning - M<sup>r</sup> Turnbull came up this morning - 6 negros sick

8 Clear verry warm morning Finished ploughing by 9 O'clock com'enced picking cotten with trash gang - grass prevents my putting all hands at it - do not recollect of ever seeing better picking in August than at this time trash gang avreaged 80 at dinner - 170 the highest at night

9 Few clouds. never knew or felt warmer weather than has been for two weeks past - hoeing G<sup>ns</sup> since 10 oclock - new land cotten verry fine opening good picking



10 Cloudy morning

11 Clear cool morning - Appearance of Fall - Gave Dave Bartley & Atean a suit. I bought them in N. O. for their fine conduct picking cotton &c.

12 Morning Clear & cool - last night quit Cool - fine Picking. Making a push to get to Picking on Wednesday - never saw as many mawking Birds together as I saw this morning in coming from the Gns place

13 Morning cloudy - Bartley was not to be found last night 'till late, was not seen after 12. taken sick at Gns found in the night - & never saw hands in better spirits. worked finely - Ginny Jerry has not been seen since Friday morning last - has been shirkin for some time came to me Friday morning sick - suspecting him Examined him found nothing the matter complaining of pains &c. told him to go & work it off - he has concluded to woods it off - cotton in Lower part Gns place improved verry much new land still doing well old Land past recovery - owing I am certain to its having been broke up wet - both an injury to the land Horses & negros to work in the mud & wet

14 Cloudy - Com'enced working the road this morning from Wades to the river - verry bad - women & children picking cotton

15 Morning cloudy sprinkle of rain this evening, started 5 scrapers old Land above

16 Cloudy morning - Finished the roade last night - well done - never finished as soon part or most of it worse than usual - negros . . . at the rascal in giving them Whiskey &c. 5 scrapers running - 2 putting up scaffolds - all others picking cotton - was taken yesterday with violent pain in my right side in going to swamp - had to stop & get a blister at Ruffins &c. I Bennet H. Barrow do certify that I the said Bennet have got the meanest crop in this neighborhood & the meanest by far I ever had - been absent too often - would not care how mean it was if I was not in Debt - & last accounts from England verry unfavorable - two thirds of the people must be ruined - should the times continue beyond this season

17 Morning Clear pleasant - wind from the East for some days past - cause some sickness - sprinkle of rain at 2. appearance of Heavy rain this evening - Hands do not appear as lively picking as I expected to see them

18 Cloudy warm morning - I have 20 Bales cut, "last night"

19 Cloudy warm morning hard shower at 2 o

20 Damp cloudy morning started Gins at Home yesterday picking to day at G<sup>ns</sup> avreaged yesterday 176 - picking as clean cotten as I ever saw - D<sup>r</sup> Desmont an Englishman has left here. verry strangely a villian no doubt - & left me to pay between 10.000 & 16.000 for him - his uncommonly gentlemanly manners - modesty & chastity caused me to be discerned by him - I've allways been opposed to Yankey speculators coming out here to seek their fortunes. by marrying or any thing else thats suits their purpose - particular the D--- proffessional Preachers - stragling foreigners, are no better - sister Eliza here to day

21 Foggy morning - Hands picked well yesterday highest  
265 clean cotten

22 Clear verry warm - B S Joor came down yesterday. Went out last night to have a Fox hunt. could'ent start - Son Bat threatned to be sick again - well digger repairing my well - more water &c.

23 Clear verry warm - hands picking well - Avreaged 201 day before yesterday - picked 3 days at G<sup>ns</sup> 15 Bales - most ever picked there in Aug<sup>st</sup> Want rain verry much - ground as dry as can be - cotten com'enced forming in the last 8 days verry fast. rain now & a late fall would make a verry fair crop - attempting to Learn James & John their book - had rather drive a Team of Mules - James 8 years old John 6 - Johns looks one way & thinks another - more sickness for week past than I've had this season. bowel complaints &c.

24 Some clouds - Morning cool Fine picking to day - averaged yesterday 187 - the avreage every day this week will be  
190

25 Clear warm morning - wind from the East - Fifty Bales out last night - between 60 & 100 Bales open at this time Hands look to day as if they were determined to try themselves lively & happy

26 Clear pleasant morning two children quit sick Ceal-ys & Leahs Adiline - worms - hands picked the worst cotten picked this year

27 Clear verry warm day went to Town - better news from cotten market

28 Clear cool morning - more sickness yesterday & to day than I've had this season - avreaged two day 203 - never saw a better crop than Turnbolls Home crop - my crop injured as much "I think" from being too thick as the drought

29 Cool wind from the North two negros verry sick (child & boy) suffering for rain verry much. Com'enced pressing 1<sup>st</sup> time

30 Clear morning verry cool. caught Ben with stollen cotten in his Basket last night - My Lauderdale has the scratchers verry bad. running in corn field

31 Nights & mornings verry cool - never saw as much cotten open in August by 3 fourths - White every Where - dry as can be - picks verry trashy

September 1 Clear verry warm day Ninety Bales out last night

2 Cloudy warm threatning rain sold all my Blood stock to Ruffin "Reserving Jos Bell" for \$5500 - hands picked well to day avreaged 203 1/2 - never saw cotten turning out better for the 1<sup>st</sup> picking - 100 Bales out to night

3 Morning clear and verry cold. fire comfortable - this morning several little negros sick

4 Clear cool morning - Avreaged yesterday clean cotten 201 1/2 - Dennis & Ben showing symtons of shirking

5 Clear cool morning - woman Patience will try the Patience of the D---- Capt Howels Gin House burnt down yesterday morning - "steam" - Avreaged yesterday 211

6 Few clouds - warm - from appearance of the smoke I think there was another Gin House burning yesterday afternoon & the light last night over in the direction of Courtneys Bayou Sara place - hands picked finely yesterday - Av<sup>d</sup> 211 - same as day before - highest picking to day by dinner I've had this year - 220 highest - but 3 under 100. Av. 139.

7 Cloudy Verry warm - rain light yesterday after dinner - hands avreaged yesterday at dinner 139 - verry warm & windy day - sprinkle rain at 12 - 4 sick - one child

8 Cloudy verry warm Morning B. J. B.----- is the most or greatest Libertine in the state - set for him last night. Hands picked well yesterday - with the Exception of Frank Tom B. & Wade - Av. 244. over one hundred and twenty five Bales out

9 Foggy morning verry warm - com'enced hawling cotten this morning - cotten still on the decline - from 8 to 12 1/2 cts Meat down to \$11.50 to \$18 - rainy day - women spinning stoped Hauling cotten - came back with three Loads - Whiped G. Jerry & Dennis for their shirking

10 Morning Clear & cool - sent 20 Bales cotten to Town - intend trying my merchants with 40 Bales &c. Turned cool - wind North - Hawling cotten to Town - Have out one hundred & twenty five Bales - 70 Gined - trying to make fine cotten as I

shall not make more than 35 Bales - 6 sick to day - Pains Ague & Fev.

11 Clear morning verry cool - Whiped 3 last night for not coming up to weigh cotten till all were done - M Courtney was shot a few nights since in returning from his Gin House two Buck shot hit him in his left Breast - flesh wound - scar-ey at any time doubt if he walks or rides at night soon - shipped 40 B. today by Levant<sup>57</sup> - L. Fill one of the most rascally Boys I own - bids fair to head any thing I ever owned - in rascallity

12 Few clouds - cool - Picked over 1<sup>st</sup> time by dinner to day - 145 or 50 1<sup>st</sup> picking - hands in bad cotten this evening

13 Clear - cool nights - picking at G<sup>ns</sup> to day - never heard of as many runaways as at that this time - Capt. Howells killed one of his cows in my field a few days since. the worst master in this neighbourhood - Wade & him the only ones in ten miles of this - my hands have not avreaged under 200 for two weeks - the avreage ever since I began would be 200 - one Hundred Bales out more at this time, than at this time last year, 3 children sick - several hands, some pretending. Randal for one

14 Clear verry cool morning - The new ground cotten at the G<sup>ns</sup> place is as fine as can be - planted by stick - my Home place would make upwards of 100 Bales more if it had of been thined to 4 feet in the drill - as it is not more than 2. My being absent - the Driver "Alfred" was afraid of doing wrong - fine Picking every Where - never had more negros to lay up for such trifling causes - will endeavor to put a stop to it - Went with Family see A. Barrow<sup>s</sup> & Miss Swifts yesterday - Cotten still on the decline in N. O. owing to the bad state of the money market both here and in Europe - selling from 9 to 13 cts - Pork has fallen to a reasonable price Prim \$11 1/2 & 12. Mess \$18 downward tendency. negros Picked verry badly at dinner to day - Av<sup>d</sup> yesterday 216 3/4 - 210820 out Last year same time 100295

15 Clear - cold morning - Hands picked yesterday than they have this year. in better cotten till 4 Oclock - evening Cotten verry trashy - one hundred and sixty five Bales out last night - 70 out over last year at this time - made all hands trash cotten to day at G<sup>ns</sup> for picking yesterdays cotten so trashy - the worst I ever had picked - & they picked less than

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<sup>57</sup> The "Levant", (Capt. Lawrant), carried passengers or freight between Bayou Sara and New Orleans. In 1838 the "Levant" was advertised to leave New Orleans each Sunday at 10 A. M. and Bayou Sara each Wednesday at 10 A. M. See Louisiana Chronicle, Feb. 10, 1838.

day before by 22 lbs each

16 Clear pleasant morning - never knew such a year - but two good rains since 6 of April Weather as fine as can be so far for Picking cotton - & turning out much better than I expected at the Gns. place

17 Some few clouds - pleasant morning - Whiped several yesterday for Picking trash & no weight - worse days work this year. cotton not quit so good. Mrs. W<sup>m</sup> Haile came down yesterday - upper new (corn) Land cotton high as my waist on Horse back - & nothing on it over knee high. all off of it first picking owing to nothing but being too thick. 2 feet & 18 inches instead of 4 feet in the drill, my negroes are so well convinced of it that they never will want telling of it again. the difference so striking between it & the Gns new Land - that being dropped 3 & 4 feet - &c.

18 Cloudy warm morning - old Land cotton picks verry badly - & trashy - sold the 40 Bales sent down Last week at 12 1/4 cts highest price Excepting some verry joice & crack Brands - so Writes my Merchants. Badly sold notwithstanding - James & John & John Haile gone down to see their uncle Jno. Joor. several colts with scratches - running in corn field, Jos Bell the finest Looking stallion I ever saw.

19 Clear pleasant. A. G. Carter & David Fluker from adjoining Parish staid with me last night - & spent the day at Ruffins stables &c.<sup>58</sup>

20 Clear pleasant - verry bad Cotton to Pick in since Monday

21 Clear verry pleasant - Picked less yesterday by two thirds than have picked this year. old Land verry bad to pick - upwards of Eighty Bales out at this time - More than ever I had at the same time of year.

22 Clear pleasant - Hands done bad weeks work - neither weights nor clean cotton - wasted &c. made them all go & pick up the cotton wasted on 40 Acres old Land - as Punishment - Between 190 & 200 Bales out - one small crib of old corn - 18 & 19 feet

23 Cloudy pleasant - Gave A. G. Carter two Hounds. Fluker one - Fluker gave me fine pup - Best cotton picked to day by dinner that I've had this season - new corn Land "cotton" improved verry much - good many Boles to open

24 Cloudy warm - never saw a more smokey day than yester-

day - Fine Picking to day - 115 or 20.000 more picked now than this time last year. about 80 Bales more out &c. A. G. Carter sent me to day a fine looking B. tan puppy

25 Foggy morning - warm Hands picked well yesterday Av<sup>d</sup> 219. G. Jerry ran off yesterday afternoon - told him at dinner I wanted to weigh his Basket. went off. Whiped him for it - Which offended his Lordship & he put out. sprinkle rain at noon - Hands picked finely Owens 160 by 12 Oclock. G. Jerry picking cotten

26 Cloudy Damp & cool wind from the North - Avreaged yesterday 245 - picked upwards of 8 Bales 51 pickers - Av<sup>d</sup> to day at one Oclock 142 1/2 - Hard shower 1/2 past 3 ock - would have avreaged to day if it had not of rained 260 lbs too wet to pick cotten pressing trashing cotten &c. 6 sick or pretending

27 Cloudy verry warm - picking cotton G<sup>ns</sup>. (several sick) - since Breakfast time

28 Cloudy cool wind from the North since day light - Fine day for picking - Number of Deaths at Bayou Sara of Yellow Fever - More sickness there than has been any year since "27 - Yellow Fever verry bad in New Orleans - & all the Southern Citys - verry Healthy through the country. Capt. W<sup>m</sup> N. Banell died at Woodvill of Yellow Fever. 36 Hours after he was Taken - 40 cases at the Bayou

29 Cloudy cool - Lewis stole cotten Last night or rather weighed cotten that had been wet & was verry much stained &c. doged off from the scaffolds not seen him since - full match for Dennis - their mother B. Lucy is the greatest rascal & smartest negro of her age I ever saw. Alfred & Atean both brothers to Dennis & Lewis & two better negro don't Live - Two hundred and twenty five Bales out Last night - cotten has improved verry much in the Last three weeks - should the Top Boles mature will make verry fair crop. 321450. Will make at least 210 Bales - 15 picked besides - cotten has been as dry as could be from the commencement of picking - seed perfectly dry - never have suned any to save - upwards of Eighty Bales ahead of Last year - not more than half the cotten open as there was this time last year - will be able to make better cotten by it

30 Cloudy quite cool - sudden change in the night - upwards of 220 Bales out to night - Had G. Jerry T Fill & B<sup>ts</sup> Nat up here washing all yesterday as punishment - generally dirty & ragged - commenced on last crib of corn - moveing my Gins - purring both on the same shaft - wideing the Band Wheel - never had as much cotten on hand by two thirds. Hands picked badly to day at noon - some verry trashy weather turning verry cool

October 1 Clear morning; quit cold. Hands picked worse yesterday evening than they have done this year. Some as low as 50 lbs tolerable picking - Good picking to day - from 11 0 between 230 & 40 Bales out last night - sent to Woodville yesterday after two sides of Gin Band Leather

2 Cloudy morning - Hands picked badly yesterday, out of good cotten part of the day. Lewis still out. no doubt but he is down at Uncle Bats Where his Father lives - Which proves the impropriety of having husbands off of the plantation - he would not have staide out more than one night - &c.

3 Clear cool morning - Hands picked well yesterday - cotten verry fine at Gns. more cotten open to the Acre than I've seen this year - Kiah & Sam been out of the crop all the Fall - some disease or other - D<sup>r</sup> Walker commenced on Sam yesterday - told Dennis I intended to Whip him. went up in the Gin house to Empty his cotten. Went out through the receiving room & put out - started Jack after him - to give him \$50 if he catches him - I had rather a negro would do any thing Else than runaway Dennis & his Brother Lewis & G. Jerry the only ones that gives me any trouble to make do their part. Dennis nor either of them have done their part this year - Av<sup>d</sup> 226 yesterday - rise of 7 Bales 49 pickers

4 Clear. cold morning - Boy Lewis came in last night - gave him the worst Whipping I ever gave any young negro. I predict he will not runaway soon. Building a Jail for him Dennis & Ginny Jerry - intend Jailing them from Saturday nights 'till Monday mornings - Never saw it as dry in my Life. the creek in my Field stoped running - never knew it to stop before - small Fish Trout & perch bite finely no appearance of rain - Want rain to make the top Boles grow, will make 7 Bales to the hand "I think". Fair crop - verry few ever make it - & plenty of corn. peas & Pumpkins

5 Clear cool morning - went to Town - verry warm day Yel-low Fever very Bad in Town - changed Merchants in N. O. from Finley & Co. to A. Ledoux & Co.<sup>59</sup> obtain money from them at 10 pr ct & they are considered the best salesman in the city.

6 Cloudy morning, verry warm - Warmest night & morning in some weeks - Appearance of rain. rain allways When I haul cot-ten - intend hauling Tuesday next. Between 260 & 65 Bales out last night

7 Few Clouds - verry warm Wind from the East - Black smith tiring my cart Wheels - verry windy & from the East.

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<sup>59</sup> Barrow apparently was well satisfied with Ledoux & Co. for they were still his factors in 1849 when he borrowed \$25,000 from the firm. See Mortgage Record, pp. 506-510.

8 Cloudy & verry warm - windy - & from the East. A. Har-  
ralson died yesterday I shall loose by him \$1300. his fam-  
ily will be dependent on a negro woman I have a mortgage on -  
as a matter of course - cannot take her - &c. Com'encd hawling  
Cotten this morning. rainy evening

9 Some rain verry cloudy morning - considerable wind from  
the East. raining during the night - Robt. R. & Ben<sup>t</sup> J. Barrow  
here since yesterday - never passed a more agreeable day - Ben-  
net insist on my child being named Clifford - women spinning  
&c.

10 rainy morning - warm - A Mr Vadal staid all night with  
me last night a perfect Jack ass Fop & gawk - has a claim or  
track of Land near Miss Swifts - 600 Acres - from near Natchez.  
the Native American cause appears to be on the increase - evry  
Native A. best be in Favor of it. view it coolly & lay aside  
party feeling - it is to abollish the Naturalization Laws from  
this time

11 Clear pleasant - went driving no luck

12 Clear warm - S Flower & W<sup>m</sup> Flower with me last night.

13 Clear - morning cool - sun warm - more sickness two days  
past than Ive had this season - several pretending Put Darcas  
in Jail last night for pretending to be sick, repeatedly - the  
first one ever put in the Jail - & G Jerry

14 Clear beautifull day - gathering Peas all hands - shiped  
Saturday 80 Bales 120 in all 185 Gined in N<sup>o</sup> about 275  
out

15 Clear morning cool - Picking G.<sup>ns</sup> fine Picking went  
driving yesterday two verry fine Deer came up the roade to  
jno. Joor & myself. I gave the word fire - Breast to me -  
missed jno J. fired as they Whirled off - my other barrel did  
not fire cap out - never saw shot range prettier - ran to W<sup>m</sup> -  
missed Broad side

16 Verry cold nights & mornings - hand did not pick so well  
yesterday - verry clean - Shiped in all 160 Bales Went to A.  
G. Barrows found jno Barrow quit sick - dogs ran off after a  
cat left them &c. 2 old dogs came to me & 4 pups - started a  
cat coming home just at dark ran short time treed I think

17 Foggy morning cool. Went driving to day killed fine  
young Buck one Fawn & dogs caught one - most pleasant Deer  
hunt I've had in several years

18 Clear morning verry cold. B. Cato went to work for R.  
H. B. on Gin &c. hands avreaged over 200 two days past



19 Clear morning cool - hands did not pick well yesterday - having to pick over cotton torn to pieces by them the night before - Ruffins trainer M<sup>r</sup> Tisdale returned from Kentucky - bringing with him 19 beautiful dogs 5 intended for me lost or died - strange that only mine should have died - one of the most beautiful sluts I ever saw - Wagner won the Great Match at Louisville 4 mile heats in 7.48. 7.44 - beating Grey Eagle - half week Each heat - distanceing two others - & beat Grey Eagle 4 days after for the Jockey club purse 4 mile heats - by 10 inches only - in 7.42 Grey Eagle broke down in 2<sup>d</sup> Heat - they ran locked the Entire distance - no doubt the most interesting race ever witnessed - Wagner stands at the head of the Turf - at the South & West. Boston in Va. & North. Wagner has Battered the World from \$10 to 50.000 4 mile Heats - Jos Bell won the 1<sup>st</sup> Heat from him last spring in N. O. Easy & out of condition & beat him 3 miles in the 2<sup>d</sup> under a very hard pull - bad riding & want of condition lost him the race - though Wagner is much the best 4 mile Horse, any other distance Jos could beat him quit handily - from the appearance of Pressures leg I think he will let down if run this Fall - Ruffins colts all look well - both in training & out &c. Caught a Fox this morning brought him home alive &c.

20 Cool wind from the North quit strong during the night - verry smokey for some days past - most wintry looking day this Fall - Yellow Fever still in Town - Gave my negros about my lot the worst Whipping they ever had. Big Lucy the D-----t villian ever lived

21 Went catting<sup>60</sup> started two treed one in the swamp - having no Gun along left it - treed or lost the other in the hills

22 My Birthday left Home yesterday eveng for William, with Family stoped to see Robt. J B just returned from Tennessee with his wife - Married two months since - appears settled & happy.

23 Clear pleasant - returned home last night - Gave every cotton picker a Whipping last night for trash & of late my driver has lost considerable authority with them - very heavy laws for some time past

24 cloudy warm went Deer hunting yesterday - 10 persons. D<sup>r</sup> Lyle of Va. & killed fine young Buck - verry pleasant day - more in the sick house than have had any time this year. Between 310 & 325 Bales out last night - never had prettier Cotton picked than hands are picking this week - dogs started a Fox just at dark - stoped them &c.

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25 Hunting for wildcats.

25 Clear verry warm for the season - "like June" - 320 Bales out last night by cotten weighed in - picked 58 days to day.

26 Cloudy - verry warm - hands picked verry well 2 days past - nearly up with my cotten Rece<sup>d</sup> Acct. of Sales of my first cotten shipped to A. Ledoux & Co. same cotton as Finley & Co. sold part of it was under the Gin house at the time I shiped 40 Bales to Finley, Ledoux sold it 3 1/4 more than Finley & writing me to have my name on it in full - instead of B. H. B. thinks it fine cotten - the Brand would be looked after one a French house, Finley & Co. Yankeys & Louisian<sup>s</sup> Re<sup>cd</sup> a Letter from Dr. Faucett of New Orleans on the spinal Disease Bladder urethra &c. several negros affected - can hear nothing of my runaway Dennis

27 Cloudy Damp morning - warm Miss Margaret Swift & jno. Barrow staid here last night - W<sup>m</sup> Joor came down last night - sprinkle rain last night - Between 330 & 345 Bales out last - 330 weights set down 15 picked before I commenced weighing - Great many negros to be sold at Woodvill - Sheriffs sale - Judge Prosser died near Woodvill a few days since - I was married by him - an honest man left nothing for his wife - P Doherty spent the day with me - William Joors informs me that they rec<sup>cd</sup> letters from Florida respecting

November 4 Damp Foggy morning Picking cotten at G<sup>ns</sup> - sent O Fill down to David Barrow<sup>s</sup> last night to look for Dennis - and to offer \$20 for him - I think of sending him to the Ball & chain in N. O. 'till spring - Yellow Fever still at Bayou Sarah - Summer still here - hawling cotten to day, to Rat<sup>s</sup> Landing. not more than 30 or 50 Bales ahead of last year. 350 Bales out on the 2<sup>d</sup>

5 Wind fresh from the North this morning - my crop begins to look as though it will be short

6 Cold morning. & strong wind from the N. West - never felt a more pleasant day than yesterday - pure bracing wind from the North - went driving yesterday - & never was so put to a stump in my life - M<sup>r</sup> jno. E. Barrow (a young Tennessee scamp) invites the two M<sup>r</sup> Howels over to join us men - possessed of no feeling of the gentleman - I thought this bad enough - but M<sup>r</sup> Riddel must invite T. Purnells Molatto boy with him & when at dinner handed him some thing to East which was sufficient invitation for him to join &c. respect for Riddell kept me from giving him E--- Respect for no one shall prevent my doing my duty in such a case again - so goes this world - made the hunt as little uninteresting as I could Mrs Joor owes me from the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month \$14727.23 Not paying me the interest yearly - & nothing 'till the End of 3 years - I will loose \$1500 thus - interest - Each year added to the principle for 5 y<sup>rs</sup> Will make 21559.30 - upon the Amount she owes

me dated 29 Oct. 1838 \$13387.73, I wish all young persons knew What I've learnt of this world in the last 3 years - one thing marry a Daughter against the mothers will - hatred or dislike remains with her forever, & 99 out of a 100 think of nothing but self - corruption appears the order of the day - a corrupt govemont makes corrupt people - Genl Jackson 1<sup>st</sup> destroying the United S. Bank & then distributing the revenue among the State Bank inducing them to over issue - & this creating a spirit of speculation - not with the people but by the Banks themselves - through their agents buying up large bodies of Land & he then issued his Specie circular - that nothing but Gold & Silver would be taken for dues to the Government. caused a rush for Metals - Banks having over issued people borrowed largely - everything rose to an enormous price - & altogether fictitious - the consequence was the Banks were forced to stop specie paying - curtail money greatly depreciating - has caused the Whole country to be Bankrupt. We are forced in buying any thing not to give What it is worth in Gold & Silver - or What our money is worth here - but What it is worth to the trader in his country - an Excuse for them to add from 25 to 100 pr. c<sup>t</sup> above the usual rates you cannot buy a decent horse for less \$200. 5 y<sup>r</sup> ago \$200 bought the finest saddle horse &c. turning verry cold.

7 Clear beautifull morning Frost this morning - 1<sup>st</sup> time this Fall

8 Clear cold - Family went to Uncle Bats., ice this morning.

9 Clear verry cold - too cold to pick cotten till 8 O'clock or after. The scoundrel J Desmont, forged my name as acceptor on a note for \$200. Protested few days since - I fell satisfied he intended to act the rascal from the Begining - Cotten opened verry much in the two days past. Between 385-395 Bales out to night. 252 shiped Will ship in all on Monday next 11<sup>th</sup> 272 Bales in No

10 Clear - wind from S. East - Smokey. Verry dry.

11 Verry hard rain this moring most that has fallen since 13<sup>th</sup> july - 2<sup>d</sup> one since 6<sup>th</sup> April - Women spinning - &c. intended to dig Potatoes to day. turned quit Warm - Wind from the West. getting out timber for cart Wheels, Taking more pains with Cotten "this year" than I ever took - Dennis still runaway & striped one of M<sup>r</sup> Flowers little negro boys a day or two since &c.

12 Clear Beautifull day - pleasant. digging Potatoes since yesterday afternoon

13 Cloudy warm - jno. Mayrant came down from Black Riv-

er.<sup>61</sup> they are making - in that section of the Country 15  
Bales to the hand. & most of the river Lands

14 Cloudy verry windy & warm raining during the night -  
Taken night before last with violent vomiting & Purging. yes-  
terday morning D<sup>r</sup> Walker was here & advised me to take 40 Drops  
of Laudanum in direct opposition to Nature & my own judgement -  
it had the effect to keep me sick till now - with violent Head-  
ach - & some fun &c. D--- the Doctors - Potatoes turned out  
verry well - considering the dry year - men Trashing cotten to  
day - women spinning Picking cotten from 10 'till 4 Oclock -  
rainny verry hard till Bed time & great deal of Lightning.

15 Cloudy cool wind from the North. verry dark clouds.  
no appearance of Braking up. Pulled some corn & Pulled Pump-  
kins &c.

16 Cleared off yesterday evening. Pulling corn - &c.  
Picking cotten since dinner Went over to Ruffins, in company  
with D<sup>r</sup> Walker. &c.

17 Clear pleasant day - M<sup>r</sup> jno c Canow here Last night - my  
Hounds got after a Bear yesterday - cotten fields Begin to Look  
quit Black

18 Clear warm

19 Clear Pleasant - hands Picked verry well yesterday  
over 400 Bales out

20 Cloudy verry cold - Went Driving. Who should make  
their appearance but M<sup>r</sup> E Howell & E. Barrow - two D--- scamps  
- Put them at a stand & came off and left them - if they don't  
take that hint nothing but a kick will answer.

21 Cloudy cold - D<sup>r</sup> Walker S Flower & M<sup>r</sup> Falkner with  
me since yesterday morning - started my trasher - sprinkling  
rain from 3 OK 'till dark - cold several sick risings - &c.

22 Some rain during the night Appearance of bad day.  
cold, East Wind - spinning & Trashing cotten - rainy day

23 Cloudy Bad looking morning great quantity of rain  
fallen since yesterday

24 Cloudy cold Wind from the North. Appearance of clear-  
ing off this evening

25 Cloudy verry cold. & strong wind from the North  
much the cold'est day this season - Pulling corn - cotten

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<sup>61</sup> In East Louisiana, just across from Natchez, Mississippi.

Falling verry fast. 8 to 13 ~~SS~~

26 Freezing - Cloudy - corn Turning out well so far. commence sleeting this evening verry cold

27 Raining - Raining through out the night - will be 'till Christmass getting out corn & cotten

28 Cloudy Pleasant - Pulling corn - &c.

29 Cloudy, wind cool, misty. Went to Town to day. Purchased a saddle Horse to day verry fine one - for \$230. verry fast & active

30 Cloudy cool - Finished Pulling corn to day - & Hawling it in.

December 1 Cool verry Foggy morning Cleared off yesterday evening Cloudy again to day

2 Clear cool - Went Driving in the swamp - ran number of Deer - &c.

3 Clear cold morning - went to see all Ruffins colts run verry much pleased at their performance

4 Clear pleasant - morning cold

5 Cloudy pleasant - Finished Picking Gns by Dinner - I never have been so provoked as I have been for the Last month by my House servants - my cook Hetty has not been seen since morning no one has said a word to her. nothing but pure impidence I thought her the best negro I owned - 'till she took Big Lucys son Lewis for a husband - &c.

6 Raining since yesterday 4 O<sup>k</sup> verry warm - caught Capt. Howells runaway yesterday - him & my boy Dennis have been together started to their camp at Dark - through briers cane &c. rainy constant dark as could be - arrived at the camp at 8 O. staid 'till one - found every thing verry comfortable. cooking utensials in abundance meat &c. near A. Howell they Live in Capt. Howells Quarter - Harboured &c. Com'enced Hawling Cotten to the river yesterday, rain as usual - trashing cotten & spinning - About 30 Bales to pick 420 Bales out certain 335 pressed to day. Appears like Clearing off. Wind North & cold

7 Clear verry pleasant - in Taking Cap<sup>t</sup> Howells runaway ~~Some~~ - Went by the camp to get his things & see if Dennis had ~~returnd~~ sent Jack & him to the camp the scoundrel told me the camp was in a small bunch of cane - I went round & found ~~just~~ the reveryse large cane & Deep ridges just as Jack got ~~within~~ 50 y<sup>ds</sup> of the camp Dennis saw him - & off he went -

t'was impossible for me to have got near the camp the way How-  
ell boy directed me - Jack took after Dennis forgetting Howells  
boy & away he goes - thus lost both

8 Clear verry cold

9 Clear verry cold - coldest morning this Winter

10 Clear pleasant - Picking verry trashy Cotten - made 3  
cribs full of corn Large & fine years - well filled. old  
corn to last till some time in January 1840. Between 430 &  
445 Bales out - 339 shiped in N<sup>o</sup> will mak by our weight -  
350 shiped of 400.

11 rain at 8 Oclock - warm Cleared off at 10 O. verry  
pleasant - Capt. Howells Gin House burnt down this morning be-  
fore day. his negros says it was my boy Dennis - trying to  
clear themselves of it - Dennis was shot at there on Sunday  
night last. Will see him in the morning if he says it was Den-  
nis I will curse him and if I ever catch one of his negros on  
this side the creek will make them see sights - he has the name  
of being the most cruel Master I ever knew of - 'tis said he  
has castrated 3 men of his - has no justice about him<sup>62</sup>

12 Clear cold - Mrs Joer came up from Plantation this  
evening

13 Cloudy cold - Went driving shot of off my Horse at  
two fine Bucks - killed one I'm certain - crippled the other  
dogs ran off. &c.

14 Cleared off since 10 O. rain last night - and at day  
light - trashing cotten &c. Cotten selling from 6 1/2 to 11  
cts

15 Clear cold - Gave negros Whiskey last night for a  
Dance.

16 Clear verry cold - Freezing weather - between 20 & 30  
Bales to pick

17 Cloudy verry cold - wind from East. ice & Freezing -  
Went to Town yesterday - never saw or heard of such times -  
distressing to hear from N. Orleans. large sales of cotten  
made 7 & 8 3/4 cts Ive sold none as yet lower than 10 cts

18 Cloudy cold. 355 B Pressd

19 Cloudy - cold East wind Turnbull & Ruffin perswaded

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<sup>62</sup> About this time an epidemic of gin burning broke out in West  
Feliciana.

me to pay a Forged note of \$200 - drawn by J. Desmont verry much against my will - I would give the amount if I had not of done it - their idea was it was best to pay it & get rid of the D--- scoundrel - & he never will return to this country & no chance to find him. Com<sup>ced</sup> hawling cotten yesterday - will have Gined by day after to morrow 380. & Pressed

20 Cloudy warm - Heavy wind from the East - bruised my finger few nights since - paining me verry much - Paid the negros last night.

21 Cleard off after day light verry pleasant - L. Dave saw Dennis yesterday went after him all the men. Randal L Dave & Sam saw him I am certain they acted the rascal - saying they ran him 100 y<sup>ds</sup> & I was not 50 y<sup>ds</sup> from them When they gave the alarm no doubt but Dennis went one way & they another - raining all the time as hard as it could pore

22 Cloudy verry cold - Freezing & killed the Fattest Deer yesterday evening I ever saw - & the Largest but one Weighed 170 <sup>lbs</sup> net - verry large Horns. Finished giving the negros money - &c.

23 Cloudy morning - cold - A. G. Barrow & jno. Joor here since yesterday - Comc<sup>d</sup> raining to day at 12 O". steady rain - negro<sup>s</sup> went to Town to day Turnbolls Overseer Bailey caught Dennis yesterday & brought him to me to day - he is as fat as he can be

24 Cloudy cool - appearance of a Dull Christmas!! intend Exhibiting Dennis during Christmas on a scaffold in the middle of the Quarter & with a red Flannel Cap on.

25 Clear. verry White Frost & cold - negros appeared in fine spirits yesterday Let Darcas out of Jail - Dennis confined in Jail - tells me he saw & talked with several of my negros While out. Candis Jenney Israel & Ginney Jerry. Paid \$4 to one of Miss Swifts negros for jerry - he had passed conterfieltt money on him

26 Raining - had quit a Dance yesterday - some of the old negros &c. turned verry cold since noon

27 Cleared off - cold

28 Clear cold - Negros preparing for a dinner - Robt. Semple jno.. Liddell & D<sup>r</sup> Walker & B. J. B dined with me yesterday

29 Clear verry cold - negros had quit a fine supper last night - &c.

30 Cloudy warm morning - com'enced raining at dinner.

Verry hard rain this evning.

31 Sun rose clear - Cloudying up, cool - last day of Hol-  
liday



1840

January 1 Clear verry cold - commenced work to day - gave Eleven days Holliday the year past has been one of the most remarkable years known to the present Generation. Greatest Political changes, every thing lost sight of but money money money - the Largest cotten crop ever made more made to the hand than was ever known - some instances as high as 20 Bales to the hand - the driest year up to November ever known here - and greater loss of property by incendiarism through out the United States - I com'ence this year with full determination to attend strictly to my buisness and to use every economy till I get out of Debt. My course will be a Lesson to my children - that is never to loan What is not your own - if you owe any thing pay it first - I borrowed money for other persons "friend" & now have to pay it over. Mind Who proffesses to be your friend - you see a man working hard & economising help him, but see a fellow dressing fine, using fine language & they are What is called clever fellows - let them pass - such a one was Desmont. for Whom I have to pay over \$15000 for. Foreigner at that - went driving in the Hills with all Ruffins dogs - no luck

2 Clear verry cold. every thing Frozen - trees White with Frost

3 Clear verry cold night - hands picked Well, for the cold & cotten

4 Clear pleasant. went to Town - Ruffin started for the Legislator in N. Orleans - cotten looking up 4 1/2 p c.

5 Clear warm - great many Persons gone to the City - Genl Andrew Jackson is expected there on the 8<sup>th</sup> &c.

6 Few clouds verry warm returned from Turnbulls this evening - staid there last night Mrs A. King came down from Cincinnati week since - in Bad Health

7 Cloudy verry warm - Finished Picking cotten com'enced cleaning up - cutting logs - getting pickets - trashing cotten &c.

8 Foggy morning, Damp & warm - Sister Ann<sup>63</sup> came by yesterday evening. going to Ruffins - cotten down again 1/2 p.<sup>c</sup> spent the day at Ruffins - owing to D<sup>r</sup> Kings management Sister Ann has lost every dollar she had - Would now be worth between \$300 & 400.000

9 Cloudy warm & verry heavy Fogg - Darcas began to sherk again - let her out of Jail Christmas she promised to do well &c.

10 Cloudy verry warm - Family went down to Col A. G. Barrows this morning - appearance of bad weather "since noon" rain &c. Cotten I am Ginning at this time very inferier quality - Miss Louisa Sterling was married last night to Pierce Butler son of judge Butler.<sup>64</sup> Miss Sterling verry pretty young Lady. Butler the last in the Parish vain as a Peacock & as ugly as an owl

11 Clear pleasant day - Cleared off in the night - cutting coal wood - And putting pickets in the Wash in front of the House

12 Clear spring day, Raked several negros heads to day

13 Some clouds cool & windy Mrs A. Barrow here last night

14 Cloudy morning - President V. Burens message rec<sup>d</sup> verry much pleased with it - Genl. Harrison nominated by the Whigs "of this day" for President Family went to Town - was Protested as endorser on Mrs Joor<sup>s</sup> note "few days since" - in N. O. for \$7900.

15 Cloudy cool wind, from the North - heavy rain last night - raising shed back part of the House - Cleared off - & cold - Went driving Killed small Deer.

16 Clear verry cold - Old M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Combs came to see me - overseerd for my Father - 20 odd years ago. When I was but a child - he tells me that the Land in front of the House was in a manner worn out When he came here - it is now better than it was When he lived here.

17 Clear verry cold - Planting Cherokee rose

18 Turning verry cold since day light. cold as can well be - Clear verry cold. Went to Town - there was considerable party feeling in N. Orleans on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Genl. Jackson appeared

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<sup>63</sup> Ann Barrow was married first to Robert Benoist and after his death to Dr. John King.

<sup>64</sup> A noted Louisiana family. They are descendants of three brothers who came from Pennsylvania during the last years of the eighteenth century.

in fine spirits some one went so far as to take his wife up for old Jackson to Kiss got it Democracy of the present day, man worship in all its glory - one old French man that was in the Battle of N. Orleans under Jackson became so Elated as to through his arms 'round the G<sup>enl</sup> neck and gave him a kiss

19 Clear cold, ice - never saw the moon more bright. to day has been a day of Bad luck. Killed a hound to day While out hunting - came home and found my favorite slut dead never was as mad as I've been to day owing to my bad feeling, cold &c. sent Ruffins dogs home - 422 Bales Pressed in N<sup>o</sup>

20 Cloudy verry cold - Hawling Cotten to the river. Went driving no luck.

21 Cloudy pleasant, Went to Town - This crop would have paid evry Dollar I owed - but owing to my Endorsing - Will take two more crops to clear me of Debt - never Endorse at any rate for a man Extravagant & careless in buisness - nor would be gentleman.

22 Cloudy, heavy rain last night - shipped to day 32 Bales cotten in all 410. 437 Pressed, Engrafting Pears Peaches & Apple<sup>s</sup>

23 Clear verry pleasant, Mrs King came by this evening

24 Clear verry pleasant day. heavy dew. hawling cotten to Town

25 Clear verry pleasant - in going Fox hunting this morning - saw a negro running across Robt. H. B. field "before day light" put the hounds after him ran him some time took the Creek out of that into a Large brier patch. seeing he was disposed to get towards my House - quit him & ran my Horse to my Quarter - found Jack out - &c. returning to my Fox hunt - found his Hat Blanket & shoes - had been off visiting

26 Clear verry pleasant day. Shipped 442 Bales cotten - two weeks Ginning "yet"

27 Verry Foggy morning - Started 15 Ploughs this morning "Double ones" - one of W<sup>th</sup> H. Bs young hounds followed me Home on Saturday last. it is decidedly the most beautifull pup I ever saw - Hetty quit sick to day. Verry much pleased with my ploughs. N<sup>o</sup> 3 red Yankey ploughs.

28 Cloudy warm - com'enced raining at 2 O. never saw more Water on the ground - Cotten selling as low as 6 1/4<sup>c</sup> I will make 160 or 170 Bales cotten more than I thought in September. Will make over 500 Bales - Mrs Joor is shipping cotten in my name. having changed merchants

29 Verry warm - Fogg sequel to a rain this morning

30 Some clouds verry windy and turning verry cold - went Driving yesterday, S Flower turned the Deer from me 120 y<sup>d</sup> missed - ran up to him in the open field two fair shots & missed - go it Sid..

31 Cloudy cool - cold rain last night - hawled cotten from G<sup>ns</sup> place - stoped the Gin - at G<sup>ns</sup> went Deer hunting started several Killed one - verry cold

February 1 Cloudy & verry cold - heavy rain last night

2 Cleared off in the night verry cold - freesing &c.  
457 Bales Pressed in N<sup>o</sup> will make between 525 & 540 B of 400  
lbs - I am going to work and get out of Debt - and in 10 years from this will make 800 B cotten - Health permitting

3 Clear verry cold - Robt. J. Barrow & Lady here since yesterday

4 Clear cold - Went to Town - D<sup>r</sup> Desmont has returned contrary to all expectations. Letters written to him from here kept him off so long "his Excuse"

5 Cloudy warm B. S Joor came down yesterday

6 Cloudy verry warm - some rain last night - Went yesterday to see Ruffins colts in training some verry promising & handsome

7 Cloudy warm & verry damp went driving yesterday raining from 12 O. till night &c.

8 Cloudy appearance of continued bad weather - verry warm rainy day.

9 Cloudy. pleasant. Appearance of Clearing up

10 Clear - cool - 18 double Ploughs running - four furrows for cotten since the 6<sup>th</sup> one days ploughing for corn - Ginning Cotten for T. Purnell at the G<sup>ns</sup> place - Sister Ann left this Evening for M<sup>r</sup> Turnbills. here for 4 or 5 days

11 Clear verry pleasant - Went to Town - Times dull. cotten down to 5<sup>cs</sup>.

12 Clear, spring day. family spent the day at Mrs Wades.

13 Cloudy - Finished Ginning all my Good cotten - 15 or 20 Bales to Gin of stained & trash cotten - 466 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup> between 30 & 40 more. spent the day at jno. Towles never was more pleased - his wife from Va. & her sister, never saw

more pleasant Ladies

14 Clear strong & cool wind from the North. Quit a storm last night wind & rain turning verry cold - never saw worse Cotten than I'm Ginning at this time, deep yellow colour. jno. Joor here this evening. Leaves for New Orleans in the morning & is to transact my business there for me - 200 Acres Land ploughed for cotten, "4 Furrows." Eleven women spinning, others Cleaning up - 75 Acres ahead of last year in ploughing, sawing Timber for Drum Wheel carrts - intend altering my running Gear, motion one half of What it aught to be

15 Clear cold morning - Finished Ploughing upper side plantation 4 Furrows, 18 double ploughs running.

16 Cloudy cool. Wind East - verry difficult to get six cuts of cotten spun - intend making each one real thier cotten

17 Cloudy morning. Hard rain last night - Wind from the N. West. Appearance of clearing up - Cleard off at 10 O. like spring - 476 Bales Pressed in N<sup>o</sup>. two Large cribs full of corn & one third of the small one, ploughing piece of Land for sweet Potatoes ridging it up now to make it more mellow When ready to plant & thrown back to the middles

18 Clear verry pleasant morning - spring day. Whiped half the Quarter last night for being up after 10 O. Com'encing with the Driver. Never saw a more singular day Clear beautiful morning 'till 9 O. cloudy & cool of a sudden then misty - threatning rain - this afternoon Clear and pleasant - some What in unison with my feelings - for D<sup>r</sup>. Desmont came to see me to day & sattisfied me in a great measure, his staying away as long as he did &c. still I think him a rascal

19 Cloudy Verry Warm. Wind South - subscribed to Lives & writings of Genl Washington & Franklin. & Bottas History of the War

20 Cloudy - bad looking day. heavy rain & wind last night W<sup>m</sup> Joor came down from Woodville yesterday. Ploughing at G<sup>ns</sup> since day before yesterday - Working My road with the women &c. Finished Ginning this evening. one negro quit sick with Pleurisy "Jane."

21 Cloudy verry warm - I've been joking W<sup>m</sup> Joor about Miss Hester. he looks as mad as a wounded Buck. Lips quivering like the Aspian Leaf. thinks this his last visit for a Long time - Hawling Cotten to Town

22 Cloudy verry warm - several showers yesterday afternoon. pressing my last cotten - rolling logs round the field with Plough hands - too wet to plough, rolled logs off of a place for Water mellons - on L creek rich & sandy - 350 Acres

ploughed for cotten, 4 furrows - one weeks ploughing for cotten, "first 4 furrows," changed fence near Quarter this evening - shower to day at Eleven O<sup>k</sup> - Saw Ruffin yesterday - bad news from N. Orleans, impression their, that there is enough Cotten made this year to answer for the next two - now selling from 4 to 11<sup>ct</sup> - Money market very tight evry Where - negros have fallen from \$1200 to 8 & 900 "men" - Pork Prime \$11. mess \$12.50 & 13 p<sup>r</sup> barrel. Molasses lower than usual 17<sup>c</sup> on Plantation I had some delivered here for 21<sup>c</sup> pr. Gallon

23 Cloudy verry warm - Made last year. Pressed 493 Bales cotten in N<sup>o</sup>. 530 avreageing 400 lbs Peach and Plum trees in full blume for some days past - A. G. Howell has nominated himself Candidate for the Legistor - neither sense nor honesty Cloudy & verry warm - Wind Blew from the North at 9 O. and hard rain with it turning cold - two sick with Pleurisy two risings - Planted two rows of Live Oake trees in front of the House. from the yard to the Lane - Finished Pressing my last years crop, 14 Bales the worst cotten I ever saw.

24 Cloudy, some appearance of clearing up - never had a worse time than last night. O. Anica verry ill had to go through mud water & rain &c. raney night - too wet to plough this morning - repairing fences

25 Cloudy, threatning rain - digging my well Deeper. dry for 6 months

26 Cloudy morning - summer day

27 Cloudy Warm - Appearance of rain - Family went to Town. the Miss Swifts came here &c. went driving

28 Cloudy. heavy Fogg - & warm more like May than Feb<sup>ry</sup>

29 Verry Foggy morning - went to Town

March 1 Cloudy damp morning persons in the neighbourhood planting corn - had a fine chase this evening after a cur dog - Heavy rain at 5 O<sup>k</sup> - two Large cribs full of corn. small one one fourth - one Martin made its appearance

2 Some few clouds - appearance of clearing up. pleasant. M<sup>r</sup> Pennington came to repair my running Gear mill &c. could have finished running round four furrows for cotten by to morrow dinner - breaking out middles for corn & Planting since dinner Turned quit cool since 12 O<sup>k</sup> Planting corn covering it with Ploughs

3 Cloudy, fresh wind from the North - never saw the ground in better order for planting corn - I see cotten up & looks fine, round the seed piles & roade - small peaches, trees in the woods putting out Leaves - Hawling my last cotten to Town.

Four hundred and ninety five Bales in N<sup>o</sup> Pressed. gained 36 Bales making 531 Bales of 400 <sup>lb</sup>

4 Clear "Beautifull" & pleasant spring day - more like planting cotten weather than Corn. Finished planting 150 Acres corn - 30 to plant bottoms - too wet at this time - Planted few rows of corn as an Experiment - years saved from stalks I found When gathering Fodder. two Large years on a stalk and Fodder dried up - have seen them frequently in riding through the field - 3 weeks Earlier

5 Clear verry pleasant - quit unwell last night. Went to Town

6 Foggy morning - spring &c. Finished Ploughing 4 furrows for cotten by . . . oclock. breaking out middles "since" - My driver sent for me this morning Lize & Fanny had a fight last night - gave them three oake switches each - & made them Fight it out - they seemed quit sick of it - after one switch was gone - &c.

7 Cloudy verry warm - M<sup>r</sup> Burlridge came to see me this morning - overseed for my Father 1820-25 - &c.

8 Cloudy morning damp - Went driving yesterday no start. several hunters came by this morning, Driving went verry much against my will - Finished running round four Furrows for cotten yesterday Saturday Breakfast, breaking out middles

9 Cloudy verry warm - moving Gearing Beams to Enlarge my Band Wheel for Gin &c. Finished making Fences by dinner - Grinding over at Robt. H. Barrows to day

10 Cloudy, cool & strong Wind from the North, considerable rain yesterday evening & last night, saw a trial run of Ruffins two colts & Capt Laurent - yesterday - Capt. L. performed verry well - women spinning. cleared off beautifull - never was as forward a spring, that I ever heard of, cotten that came up in field & roads about looks as well as I ever saw it - great many planting & some finished - I would plant if ready.

11 Few clouds. cool morning - Danl. Turnbull Loaned me \$7000 3 years ago - offered it to me insisted on my taking it. Mrs Joor wanting funds I took it - he has now over \$50.000 doing nothing - and to my surprise sent me a Dun yesterday and knowing that I had been verry unfortunate this year, and was at this time pressed for money, I cannot account for it I have allways considered him suspicious & verry economical, but his conduct to me at this time is most illiberal make the least of it - I have offered him a family of negros - there is not three of his own family that are friendly with him - He will have to make great advances before I visit him. Mrs King staid here a few days back - and makes Turnbulls her home While in

La. I mentioned to her I thought Turnbull close and acted verry foolish in relation to religion among his his negroes, and rigidness with his children and have no doubt but she has hinted something of the kind to Martha - the mere fact of my having Endorsed and lost considerable by so doing has set me down in the eyes of a few skin flints as Extravagant ruined, thank God I have one brother in law with a big sole, that is W<sup>m</sup> H. Barrow, Excepting Mrs King & Martha Turnbull I know of none of the Barrows of my own relation, that are not liberal & honest, and are like families ought to be. united - All the circumstances or accident that ever happened to me none ever come so out of place as this act of Turnbolls, Mrs King & Martha T. both used to say "When I was about 14 y<sup>rs</sup> old" that no good would ever come of me - be hung go to jail Quit Encouraging for an Orphan - and merely because a boy of my age 14 y<sup>rs</sup> old could not appreciate their miserly views, and like great many boys disposed to have fun, without any thing vicious in its nature, I want my children to recollect this. never accept any thing from a penurious or miserly man in his liberal moments, just so with me - Turnbull offered me \$12000. Wanted to buy a negro for me, without my ever speaking to him on the subject. "a Blacksmith" I wanted one he knew &c. Mrs King married King as the solomon of the age, had at the time, between \$100 & 200,000. now worth nothing, his solomonisms consisted in making use of big words to express the most simple thing, pompous and as ill natured as a Bear with a sore head in Fly time - had no friends in this country persuaded Mrs King to move to Ky, opposit Cincinnatti. &c.

March 11. 1840

Bennet H. Barrow

Com'enced running Harrows over corn, sprouting verry well. D<sup>r</sup> Desmond called here this evening on buisness, undetermined Where he will settle, he thinks in the upper part of this state - &c.

12 Clear cool morning. Cleaning up the Bayou<sup>s</sup> for corn & ditching them

13 Clear cold night - Frost this morning will make some of the early planters look scarry Went to W<sup>m</sup> H. B yesterday Luce<sup>s</sup> child<sup>s</sup> foot verry badly burnt - never said a word about it for 8 days - nearly mortified &c.

14 Cloudy warm - Went to Ruffins to Breakfast. M<sup>r</sup> Groosbeck & Lady came down from Ky few days since - Went to Town with Ruffin - Ruffin left for N. Orleans - found a draft on N. O. excepted by Finley drawn by D<sup>r</sup> Desmond & my name on it - written by the scoundrel desmont told him to leave the country I lost nothing by the last fogery - he is a designing scoundrel - he told me to day he would leave the country immediately - rainy afternoon



15 Considerable fallen since yesterday evening - Cloudy  
 verry warm - feells and every thing looks like summer.

16 Cloudy verry warm - appearance of rain - planted Water  
 mellons - Would plant cotten to day but threatning rain -  
 Went to A. G. Barrows

17 Cloudy Foggy & verry warm Com'enced planting cotten  
 this morning 4 Ploughs &c. ground in fine order. Grinding  
 over at Robt. H. Barrows. Finished cleaning up & making fences  
 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> done more work & more spinning than ever, "be-  
 fore" in ine spring & less trouble, corn come up finely - A. G.  
 Barrow went to Town this morning - heard that Desmont had de-  
 nial the Forgery & that he had acknowledged it to me on Sunday  
 last. & said he would not Leave the country - and if I did  
 not prosacute him he would me for slander, I went to Town im-  
 mediately and made him acknowledge that he wrote both - and  
 deny that he had said he would not leave or that he would pros-  
 ecute me - I would have killed him had he not of done as I bid  
 him - he had hired a horse When I met him, he knew I would see  
 Leake in a few minutes. to Whom he had said the above remarks  
 to - after I left him he took the back roade to Tunica - &  
 passed my boy under full speed - had I off seen Leak before I  
 met him, I would have carried him back to the Bayou - and given  
 him the Whip - a more determined villian does not live, M<sup>r</sup>  
 Parkison the sherif I met, having heard he doubted What I  
 said - he denied it - I intend telling him just what he really  
 is - a two faced pup..

18 raining - appearance of a bad day some rain yesterday  
 evening - verry warm - Cleared off like summer since 10 O k,  
 never saw a better stand of corn regret not planting cotten  
 10 days ago. never saw vegetation more forward in April all  
 trees out & China & other trees bluming

19 Cloudy morning sprinkle of rain - Cleared off verry  
 warm - went driving with J. Leak D<sup>r</sup>. Walker W Joor &c. Miss  
 Swifts here to day. planting cotten 7 Harrows found great  
 many of my cotten seed rotten. from rain &c.

20 Cloudy morning - never saw more singular Weather - Ap-  
 pearance of rain every morning - & Clears off beautifull sum-  
 mer days - Wash. Pennington repairing my Gin - the most perfect  
 fool I know - stands & talks to the negros &c. negros no more  
 respect him than a negro - Employed him because Ruffin has  
 charge of his two sisters - raised in the neighbourhood. drop-  
 ing cotten seed 3 feet distance - rainy Evening. "cool" -  
 200 Acres cotten planted

21 raining, cool winter rain - verry cold and disagreeable

22 Cloudy cool. Fearfull of my cotten thats planted -  
 and Water mellons - fine sport this evening Killing Rabits

23 Some clouds Pleasant - & appearance of spring again. ground quit wet - The times continue to get worse - the credit of Mississippi ruined for the present - their money from 50 to 90 cts below par. Except one Bank. Went in the swamp driving to day. Working new ground corn - never knew better stands of corn

24 Few clouds, warm - com'enced planting cotten "again" 5 ploughs, Breakfast time - Emily left Home for Woodville this morning - Verry hard rain at 2 O. from the N. West, never felt larger drops and harder - I Expect it caught Emily before she reached her Mothers, Cleared off, cold Wind from the North.

25 Cold morning - wind from the North - blowing hard during the night - 21 degrees difference between this & yesterday morning, Women spinning. Pennington Finished my Mill, altering Band Wheel. Much the coldest day since 15 of February, if the wind ceases, will be White Frost in the morning, Capt. Sims called by this morning, upwards of seventy years old, and never knew times any thing near as hard as the present - nothing will save Mississippi but a direct tax - all brought about by the Banking system - Thrashing out Peas.

26 Clear cool morning - Light frost last night quit cold, Finished breaking out middles by 10 O K. could have Finished last Monday 23<sup>d</sup> - Planting cotten this morning with 10 ploughs & Harrows - First planting up some days - I hear of several scraping, some Early planting. this is the coldest morning since 15 of February - cotten would have done better planted 1<sup>st</sup> of March, "than since" - Com'enced ploughing corn since dinner. "11 ploughs" - verry pleasant day

27 Cloudy turning warm - ground verry close and damp. Frost touched the Water mellons yesterday

28 Few clouds - warm - Family returned yesterday evening - ploughing bottoms for corn since yesterday 10 O. appearance of rain since 10 O.

29 Cloudy verry warm - some rain last night, fine for cotten - Finished planting yesterday "to 25 Acres." My Mill since changed runs & Grinds much better - Caught a small Bird in the field yesterday - different from any I ever saw - verry delicate head & red circle in the Eyes - the colour of a mole - more like furr than feathers - with small Grey spots over it - feet like the snipe - bushy & 'round tail - verry pretty - saw another, got off in the briers &c.

30 Cleared off verry cold - Heavy rains yesterday - to day appears more like December than March - summer from 15 Feb<sup>y</sup> to the 26 of this month - cotten thats up must be injured - most all has swelled & ready to come up - it will be injured &c. women spinning - men doing little or nothing - several

Sunday Gentleman here yesterday to go a Hunting - nothing provokes me more - Sunday being a day of rest to the negroes. I like to be about - allowance day - & they frequently want things not convenient to get any other day - & My orders for every negro to come up every Sunday morning cleaned & head combed - &c.<sup>65</sup>

31 Clear beautiful day - White Frost this morning - watched last night for some Killed a hog - Putting cotton seed 'round corn since yesterday evening - nearly all the cotton Killed this morning - looks as though it had the yellow Fever.

April 1 Appearance of rain. Ploughing corn since yesterday dinner. Sent my driver to Town to select 30 Hoes<sup>66</sup> - Cold East wind - never had as bad a prospect for a stand of cotton - very cold rain since 4 O. Wind from East - Finished seeding corn - Hoeing corn since dinner

2 Verry Damp Foggy & cool morning - Went down to Col A. G. Barrows this morning. Mrs Joer came down this evening.

3 Appearance of a bad day - several sick - Finished ploughing corn 1<sup>st</sup> time - Hoes get along very slowley - Ruffin here to day, his horse Capt. Laurent made a fine run in N. O. 2<sup>d</sup> in uncommon time best 3 in 5. 5 Heats 149 one Heat & 150 every Heat - some rain

4 Cloudy Warm. appearance of rainy day - rain at dinner time - all Hands Hoeing corn - rainy evening

5 Cloudy verry warm - Caught two of Capt. Howells negroes yesterday evening - they were finely fixed - clothing &c. along M<sup>r</sup> Burlige Purnell & Briant - in the Hills back of the GNS place

6 Cloudy verry warm - Finished planting remainder of cotton 25 Acres - & ploughing up 150 Acres killed by Frost - Re-planting some cotton - never have seen as mean a spring - last 3 weeks summer winter & spring - to day is the first day the sun has shown in 6 days - bared off some cotton

7 Raining verry hard - ground too wet yesterday, cotton rotting in the ground - verry fear full of a stand any Where - never saw any thing like it - quit a summer day since 10 O<sup>ck</sup> women spinning, great deal of cotton came up last night - Re-planting cotton this evening with Hoes, never saw or felt a more pleasant evening - or since 10 O. ground verry wet

8 Clear verry pleasant - Never saw as great a change in 3 negroes as has taken place here - from being careless & fascal-

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<sup>65</sup> See Appendix, "Rules of Highland Plantation."

<sup>66</sup> A rather unusual responsibility.

ly, now the most anxious to please me, work well & brisk - & keep themselves verry cleanly - they are Kiah & his wife "Luce." and Little Hannah, Mrs King & M<sup>r</sup> Groosbeck & Lady were here to day. My Family were absent - Finished replanting cotten by 4 0. Hoeing & ploughing corn since - Looks well, from 8 to 12 inches high - replanting Water Melons

9 Clear cool morning - verry cool night - verry sick negro last night Pleurisy - worked new ground second time. scraping cotten since dinner - the Tap root appears dead of great deal of cotten. Cloudy since 9 0. & cool East wind

10 Cloudy "damp Wind" - Yesterday after 10 0. was a most lovely day, caused cotten to swell & sprout. & to day will check it - cotten I am scraping barely out of the ground.

11 Cloudy verry warm, Went to Town, gave the Hands this evening to scoure up their Houses. clean up the Quarter &c. old Jenney has had a very severe attack of Pleurisy - violent pain in the arm & shoulder Joint - Mrs King and M<sup>r</sup> Groosbeck called by this morning - Mississippi river verry high - every one is dreading an over flow - with in 3 feet of its Banks.

12 Damp Cloudy morning, warm crop amounted to \$19722.42 - cotten selling from 4 1/2 to 13<sup>c</sup>. Meat from \$11 to \$16 a barrel. several showers during the morning hard rain at 12 0<sup>k</sup> - Cleared off delightfull

13 Clear, last night quit cool, Making Potatoe ridges & planting Potatoes - replanted cotten coming up well - bought Pork "mess" \$15 - Potatoe plants kept very finely. as well as Eating ones. put up in Hills & Cypress pickets over each hill - "Top"

14 Cloudy warm morning, Finished planting Potatoes, went driving - bad luck. more Deer in the Hills than has been in 8 years.

15 Threatning rain, verry warm - several sick, or pretending, shower 1/2 past 7 0. Heavy rain at 11 0. wind from the North - Cleared off since. verry warm - Hawling corn for the Miss Swifts, with two carts, Flouer lower than it has been for seven years \$350 pr barrel in N. Orleans - \$450 & \$4 at the Bayou

16 Damp Foggy morning The ground works verry heavy, ploughing verry heavy during the winter & at this time, Cotten improving verry much & corn looks well half leg high in new ground 10 inches in old Land, My Hands appear determined to make a crop, if work can do it. never saw hands Work as Well, have never said a word to them - feeling an interest, they look a head & see What is to be done - I dowbt if Jacks eaquel can be found to work, at any work you put him at, "rascally" &c. I am well paid for my trouble in teaching my small gang to Hoe, nev-

er saw such hoe hands as they are, two year ago took two on a row - now Eaquel to a woman, in dricting them to make a slow & sure lick in one place & to cut the full width of the hoe every time - unless reminded of it they would stand & make 4 or 5 licks in one place, tire themselves & do no work, have several grown ones that work harder & do less work than any in the field, had the best colt Foaled this morning I ever had - Nancy Miller & Jos Bell - stoped 5 ploughs to scrape cotten - 15 running.

17 Cloudy appearance of rain Went driving Killed a Doe with 3 Fawns - sprinkle of rain

18 Cloudy verry warm - never had as fine a pack of Hounds as at this time - out running all day, running treed verry Large Fox yesterday evening - Finished baring off Cotten "excepting that had to be ploughed up" by 9 O. running one furrow around piece of new ground cotten - Bad stand on part of the G<sup>ns</sup> place. same every year - there never was a more rascally set of old negros about any lot than this. Big Lucy Anica Center & cook Jane. the better you treat them the worse they are, Big Lucy the Leader. corrupts every young negro in her power. this set & old Jacob Oney and Darcas were off, would rarely ever have any trouble or to strike a lick - gave my driver a few licks this evening, not knowing Who had done bad work - ploughed piece of corn G<sup>ns</sup> bottom

19 Cloudy pleasant - Heavy rain above yesterday evening great deal of Lightning last night in the North - turned quit cool since Breakfast - verry cold rain "light" had a general Whipping among the House ones & two Carters,<sup>67</sup> for stealing &c.

20 Few dark clouds cold morning and night - planting corn in new ground Where the cotten is missing - "with sucklers" Bad appearance for a crop, went to Town James along

21 Clear verry warm, Went Driving D<sup>r</sup>. Percey Jno Towles & Who should join us but the D<sup>sc</sup> set I know have tried every way to insult them - &c. A Howell E Howell R Howell & jno Wederstrand - started great many Deer killed two Ruffin Dawson & Leak Jno. Joor were with us took another Drive - put 4 standers in sight of Each other Rufus Howell standing within 20 y<sup>ds</sup>. of Dawson "open" up and fired at him for a Deer - he was sitting down reading Rufus took the paper back book for Deers years - put 3 buck shot in him one in his thigh one in the leg & one in the arm below the elbow. but for his arm would have been Killed - had considerable trouble in getting him home &c. I obsevd this morning to Percey & Towles that nothing good could grow out of such a crowd &c. planted corn in G<sup>ns</sup> bottom this side little creek. Finished scraping G<sup>ns</sup> by 8 O<sup>k</sup>.

22 Cloudy morning, warm - planting corn in the Bayou, "with sucklers" several sick ploughing old land corn since yesterday morning, 15 ploughs running, old Center verry sick

23 Cloudy Damp morning, pleasant wind during the day, done bad ploughing yesterday, excuse dull ploughs. corn from knee & over knee high - Pennington Finished my work to day greatly relieved

24 Cloudy warm, Finished scraping all 1<sup>st</sup> planting by 2 o'clock 150 Acres to scrape Finished ploughing old Land corn second time ground verry dry and hard

25 Cloud warm - son Clifford quit sick during the night - Went Driving - Leake shot twice & missed

26 Clear pleasant morning - Want rain - went Fishing in G<sup>ns</sup> creek with Emily & children.

27 Turned quit cool since yesterday evening - Few clouds, Went to Town

28 Cloudy appearance of rain considerable Lightning last night. Family went to Town, jno. Dawson ju<sup>r</sup> here Last night

29 Cloudy verry warm - Went Fishing & sick as good well be When I started, no luck. rain &c. sprinkle here - G. Joor came down yesterday taken sick chill & Fever - Finished baring cotten by 4 Ock

30 Cloudy warm Finished scraping Cotten by 11 Ock Work- ing corn since - Moulding Cotten since yesterday evening "one furrow." have had less number hoeing than I've had in 3 years 14 1/2 days scraping cotten Longer than I ever was & have never seen negros work better, bad scraping at the start. ground wet & heavy - cotten 4 to 6 Leaves - corn from over knee & waist high looks well generally - Except in poor Land, verry dry

May 1 Cloudy verry warm

2 Cloudy verry warm, Went over to Ruffins to Breakfast - & went in the swamp driving M<sup>r</sup> Porter of N. York along. Brother to the Editor of the Spirit of the times - & B. J. B - Killed fine Doe, verry pleasant day

3 Cloudy verry warm - strong wind from the South - much the warmest morning this year, found two negros missing out of the Quarter last night, Finished hoeing corn second time by dinner yesterday. Holliday afterwards - Finished breaking out some middles in corn & baring off corn in bottom "yesterday"

4 Foggy verry warm, seeded place with corn this morning &

com<sup>ed</sup> hilling cotten 6 O. A. M. Went to Town - verry warm

5 Cool wind this morning, considerable Excitement through-out the United States during every Election - Have 125 Acres the Worse Hilling I ever had at this season & ground verry hard - cotten & corn both look fine - cotten beginning to Limb - Scraped piece of new ground cotten second time from 6 to 10 inches high

6 Cloudy appearance of rain

7 Cloudy verry warm - Went hunting in the swamp yesterday quit a party &c. Killed one Deer. Started great many, went Driving again to day - Killed 5 Deer got 3 only - thick as Rabits

8 Cloudy - never saw more Lightning from sun down and after Dark yesterday - heavy rain & wind during Last night - run round cotten at G.<sup>ns</sup> one furrow & P. R. bottom, transplanting some corn - & chopping trees over Little creek - all hands hoeing since dinner - scraping Where it is wet & leveling through it - cotten in new ground verry much bent down by the Wind night before last

9 Clear, quit cool Wind from the North - Winter cloths verry comfortable - ground verry much washed from rain night before last - never saw as fine cotten at this season - Forming, did not Feel the cold more in the dead of winter, than I did this afternoon - dark clouds, Wind from the North, and never saw a better stand of Sweet Potatoes. Sucklers scraping the ridges, some grass on them, Ploughed piece of young corn this side L. creek "land" - & ploughed piece for Peas, ground too wet to mould cotten, crop in beautifull order except about 10 Acres some fine grass, great many persons not done scraping

10 Clear cold, October morning, Fire comfortable

11 Clear, verry cold night & this morning quit cold - not far from Frost.

12 Cloudy cool - Went to Town. saw a Fight between Boyles & Kelly "the Editor." considerable blood spilt by blows on both sides, nothing serious, several on Kelly at once - verry foul conduct &c. there never was such a wind known in the United States as was at Natchez on the 7. several millions of property destroyed - and between 500 & 1000 persons buried in the ruins houses & every thing leveled to the ground - plantations swiped clean for 3 or 4 miles up and down the river every Flat Boat at the place sunk 60 in N<sup>o</sup> two S. Boats capsized & sunk. one a perfect reck - The hands from the neighbourhood are Employed in digging out the bodies. the most distressing thing ever known in this country. there appears some Fatallity threatening all this country, the river threatening to over flow every

thing - the worms destroying crops in some sections & the pecuniary distress at this time is truly alarming - Emily sent to Woodville after Mrs Woodward yesterday, W<sup>m</sup> Joor came down this morning Finished hilling part Jack P new ground & Pond cut L. G Penrice new ground G<sup>n</sup>s place & part of P. rice bottom 250 Acres to hill, several sick

13 Clear pleasant - Emily went to Woodville - sent all hoe hands & 5 ploughs to help the Miss Swifts, they are verry much behind &c.

14 Cloudy cool - never saw such bad hoeing as at the Miss Swifts - My hands will think they have had nothing to do in ten years - after yesterdays work

15 Cloudy wind East. Went driving yesterday Killed one Deer. Could have Finished yesterday moulding cotten with one furrow, hoe hands verry light work. sucklers scraped Potatoes

16 Clear warm, negros Holliday after 10 O-<sup>k</sup>

17 Sunday Clear warm - Went Driving yesterday in the swamp started great many Deer Killed Four - River still rising every appearance of an over flow - 5 or 8 gentlemen here to day - one of the D<sup>n</sup> E. Howell

18 Cloudy verry warm - verry light hoeing, started 6 boys learning to plough, old land corn as fine as I ever saw new land too thick - Cotten generally looks fine, bought 14 Barrels of Flour for the negros selling at \$4. ground verry dry. Want rain

19 Clear verry warm. Went Driving no Luck B. J. B missed warmest day this year. water still rising

20 Clear pleasant morning. sent to Town after a skiff<sup>t</sup> to put in the swamp - Finished hilling cotten by 8 O<sup>k</sup> could have finished last week. ploughed piece young corn G<sup>n</sup>s bottom. 24 ploughs running, going over crop 3<sup>d</sup> time Cotten from 6 inches to 2 feet high & looks fine - corn doing first rate

21 Clear cold morning. & last night quit cold - sent to Town yesterday and purchased a skiff - put it in the swamp at Mount De Morse took two hands "Jack & Levi" & were in there all day looking for dry land - too thick could not find any & came verry near being lost - reached land at sun set. W<sup>m</sup> Joor a long had him scared all day, planting Peas. ploughed Potatoes.

22 Clear verry cold night & morning J Leake & Munson came by and took off Driving verry much against my will - W<sup>m</sup> Joor caused us to Kill nothing placed himself more in a hiding Position, than a stander for Deer, quit sore after yester-



days trip

23 Few clouds. Warm morning thrashing out remainder of Peas Planted 15 Barrels. Ploughing young corn in the Bayou<sup>s</sup>. Could have finished breaking out middles to day, Cut worms com'-enceing on my Cotten verry badly negros Holliday since dinner. never was a person more unlucky than I am. My favorite pup never lives

24 Clear pleasant morning wind rose verry sudden last night at 8 O. & perfectly excepting few clouds in the South. blew from the North, appearance of a hard rain towards Ruffins & Wades. light sprinkle here this evening. Col. A. G. Barrow & Lady called

25 Cloudy cool appearance of raining - started 12 ploughs in corn ploughing every other row shallow, Com'enced raining at 9 O. appearance of a rainy day. cleared off verry pleasant evening, fine rain, yet it barely moistened the ground. Cotten Bluming, several blumes this evening

26 Clear cool morning, went Driving with A. G. B J. Joor. 4 Deer ran to them none Killed I snaped at one 15 feet - never before

27 Clear, night quit cool - hoeing Cotten third time scraping through it on acct<sup>t</sup>. of the cut worms in fine order, B S Joor came down this morning, James & John found a runaways cloths in the pasture.

28 Clear morning cool, M<sup>r</sup> Taylor here last night, from Clinton - Took short Drive. Joe Smith Turned the Deer. swamp still rising - Fish moving up the swamp.

29 Clear went Driving in the swamp Killed one Deer. A. G. B & J. T. missed - took my Dogs

30 Clear, nights cool for some time past. run one furrow with plough & the harrows in the middle<sup>s</sup> yesterday - stoped the harrows to day. Went to Town

31 Clear warm - Want rain B. S. Joor returned Home this morning L. Lucey quit sick last night with cramp in the chest, has frequent attacks - much the warmest day this year, Taking the Cencus of the United States - the products, cotten corn horses mules cattle Hogs sheep Potatoes Poultry, quantity cloth made, Fodder hay

June 1 Clear verry warm ploughing every other row in corn. hoeing G<sup>ns</sup> Sucklers hoeing young corn in the Bayou<sup>s</sup>. never had as fine cotten 1<sup>st</sup> of June. as on hills at G<sup>ns</sup> crop generally the same as last year this time, from 10 inches to over knee high, blumes much Early than I ever knew them,

bugs Eating cotten in spots

2 Clear, Finished ploughing third time, would have ploughed it two weeks, waited for rain &c. ground verry hard Fearfull my corn will fall short, owing to the second ploughing, badly done, ground now verry hard and dry, as yet the best corn I've seen & as fine old Land corn as I ever had, verry fine crop both corn & Cotten, Some pusly no grass, D. Turnbull & family gone on to the North, Went Driving Killed one

3 Clear verry warm, Finished hoeing G<sup>ns</sup> place 3<sup>d</sup> time by . . . O. Peas coming up well, Aunt Bat.. & David Barrows family spent the day with us.

4 Clear verry warm, Went driving Killed two Deer

5 Clear verry warm, Want rain verry much, several sick, one with inflammation of the Palate, two with verry sore Eyes, verry much pleased with my Crop, in fine order, The Distemper has made its appearance among my Hounds.

6 Rain at 6 O. A. M. barely laid the dust, appearance of verry hard rain above, negros holliday, nearly over crop 3<sup>d</sup> time with hoes, never had a finer look Potatoe Patch, fine rain at 9 O<sup>k</sup> cleared of since, nothing can be more beautifull than the Cotten & corn since the rain, Laid the dust well

7 Few clouds & morning pleasant. gave the negros permission to go over to Robt. H. Barrow<sup>s</sup> to preaching, I believe it to . . . being near & leaving home but seldom, granted them permission

8 Clear pleasant morning, working piece of corn, thining it & replanting Peas. Sent Col A. G. Barrow some Peas

9 Few clouds, verry warm Dr. Haile just returned from Paris & Leake came by went hunting. "& my nephew Robt. H. B" Killed 4 Deer got but two. others got in the water

10 Cloudy verry warm - little negro "Marcus" taken last night 12 or 1 O. verry ill senseless - continued spasms can't wake him - number of sick ones, asked D<sup>r</sup> Hail to see Marcus and a more undecisive man I never saw. made great many attempts to bleed him, but failed & large veins at that, Died at 11 O<sup>k</sup> Walker came but could do no good - Fine rain at the House, barely laid the dust in the field, corn wants a good rain not burning but stalks appear small & trifling silking &c.

11 Few clouds pleasant morning, Hoe hands waiting for work for 6 days past, worked piece of new ground cotten fourth time "scraped" - Finished ploughing all first planting by 10 O. 3<sup>d</sup> time, 160 Acres to plough, Cotten from half leg to hip high,

first rate. Except Where the bugs have Eaten it, ground Works beautifull, getting timber for chimneys

12 Clear warm went Driving Killed two Deer. the standers missed 3. Working young cotten above, thick with vines bug Eaten verry much

13 Clear verry warm. Fielding Davis with me last night Robt. H. B & young Mathews came to Breakfast. went & took short drive. Davis Killed one Deer. returned to dinner &c. hands holliday since dinner.

14 Clear verry warm. Fine rains over the creek, Mrs. Boman requested me to attend to Robt. H. B. place

15 Clear verry warm - Several came to go a Driving & verry much against my wish - went & Killed two Deer. verry poor. Several children sick, son Bat & all my children with verry bad colds, influenza through the country

16 Few clouds, warm - Finished ploughing & working cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time this morning could have finished some days since, new land cotten not good verry much eaten by Grass hoppers, verry little work for hoe hands, started 12 scrapers this morning, ground verry loose.

17 Cloudy, warm nights for week past. Cotten improving, worked piece of young corn at G<sup>ns</sup> "verry fine", hoeing corn & replanting Peas in the cool part of the day, ploughing Where the Harrows ran & corn new ground cotten the 4<sup>th</sup> time, ploughed piece of new ground corn every other row, beginning to roastin years I have the worst stand of Cotten I've seen, went to jno. Joor "found him sick", & A. G. Barrow. shower rain there

18 Raining since yesterday dusk, first rainy night I ever noticed in June, slow steady rain. several negro children sick "worms". Ruffins & Robt. J. B. hands came after Potatoe vines, some come every year, And I am the last to plant. by 3 weeks or more, June Peaches ripe great many of them, women spinning. men shelling corn, and putting up chimneys, ground barely moistened, lost two thirds of the day from appearance of the morning, had the Horses turned out &c. one Large Crib full of corn

19 Appearance of a bad day raining, Some Wild hogs have injured my corn verry much, more little children sick than I ever knew at one time, bad colds and worms - Cotten looks fine this morning Excepting upper new land "young cotten", had a fine stand of Peas, Ploughs and worms together have nearly destroyed them, verry hard rain fell on the swamp & Clark place. light sprinkle here, sent carraige down for John Joor. been sick, George Joor returned from his place in Mi. great many places on the river drowned out.

20 Cloudy damp morning several showers at the House now in the field. appearance of a hard rain above & below me, negroes holliday from 10 O.

21 Damp. Foggy morning verry warm, Old Ben sick for 3 weeks past. slow Fever Liver First water Mellon to day, verry sweet, fine large seed, Fine shower on part of the plantation, do not like my crop "generally," some verry good say half the other bad stand irregular and too green

22 Fine rain during the night and Early this morning, Went to Town, verry heavy rains below, roads verry Bad, several children sick, misty evening

23 Cloudy verry warm morning, scraping Cotten, corn improving verry much. Cotten improving in some places others growing too fast. plenty of large Boles. fine grass and Tie vines come up verry thick, Received M<sup>r</sup> Bonds speech in Congress, a correct & fair statement of the administration of M Vanburen & Jackson, their inconsistencies, corruption &c. Verry hard rain at 1 O<sup>k</sup> Women spinning men daubing chimneys & hoeing piece of new ground corn, Patience told me a lie this morning, to my surprise Margaret told one with her. &c. Patience is decidedly as mean as she can well be.

24 Cloudy warm all hands hoeing - went Driving, caught a wild cat, rained at noon

25 Cloudy, last night verry warm, Sun came out yesterday afternoon, Sun verry hot to day, Hoeing G<sup>n</sup>s never saw or felt a more pleasant evening

26 Clear verry warm, Cotten improving verry fast. some as fine as can be. corn remarkably fine, some parts of the plantation the rain fell verry heavy & some wind Mrs Joor & daughter Caroline came down this morning.

27 Clear morning pleasant. hoeing L Gate cut & P. bottom some Kind of insect or Louse is doing great damages to my crop in spots about Cotten nearly destroyed, Ruffin tells me he has 200 acres in a body

28 Few clouds warm in the sun, but pleasant breeze for three days past, lost a little negro yesterday, neglect of the Mother "Maria" in telling me of its situation the day before never spoke after I saw it, inflammation &c.

29 Clear verry warm - sickness still continues among my negroes, I think owing to Molases, greater part of P. R. bottom cotten destroyed by Lice, Where the cotten is free from them, it is verry fine well branched & Limbed & bolled

30 Clear verry warm, started 10 scrapers this morning

running two furrows in a row to make the hoeing lighter for hoes, old Land cotton below best I ever saw on it, Excepting Where the bugs or Lice have et. Several Sick. Appearance of rain in the East      thundering      verry warm

July 1      Clear      verry warm      Fine rain at dinner & hard rain at G.<sup>ns</sup>      worked the Lane

2      Few clouds, damp - hoeing above      too wet at G.<sup>ns</sup>, Corn crops uncommonly Good, Cotton improving, Lane P. new ground the worst Cotton I ever saw on it. generally the best Cotton I have & the best in this neighbourhood, now the worst I have Except in spots Where the Lice have et it, 300 acres good cotton 300 inferior, never felt A more pleasant day, ground in beautiful order to work      Making Baskets since Tuesday week, 23<sup>d</sup> June, Mrs Joor and Caroline returned to Woodville, Learned that Woodward was shot      Lives near Woodville      a meaner man never Lived      choked his wife nearly to Death, and made an attack on the carraige of her son, Ladies in it. had the carraige stoped by two negros, accompanied by his two brothers      fired three times in the carraige, Frazier and his brother succeeded in killing him, one of the Fraziers Lost his arm, &c.

3      Clear      cold      wind from the North. Last night quit cold, sickly day, Planted 3/4 barrel of Peas, Worms have ruined my stand of Peas. George Frazier died on Tuesday from the wound, shot by Arad Woodward, there never was a more cowardly circumstance, W. Woodward had made all the property over to his wife, his reason for doing it, was he ran off with a Loose woman afterwards returned, Mr.<sup>s</sup> Woodward rec<sup>d</sup> him, feeling some gratitude for the moment did it, has treated her cruelly ever since and, attempting to force a release from her

4      Clear Beautifull day, Wish the prospects of every one were as bright, as this memorable day, preparations for great doings at Douces to day      Bran dance &c. will not go having been started by a few Loco Foco? Who have the impudence to call themselves democrats, such men as the Howells figure Largely, Political Excitement is such that the greater the sycophant the more notice does he get. old Capt Howells breed are a head of any thing in these diggins, Killed more negros by their cruelty, & find them dead in the stocks, and yet A. G. Howell calls himself a big man, Married Dawsons niece. Dawson being a man that never looks for merit When appointing aids &c. Thinks it is not Democratic, Demorcacy of the present day means serve your party      right or wrong your party, they are the zelous supporters of Martin Van Buren, and all under the name of Democracy, All this corruption has grown out of the conduct of Genl. Jackson, Federal acts done every day by the V. B. party yet they are Democrats

5      Few clouds, warm      negros appeared quit Lively last night, had the Jack rigged out this evening with red flanel on his

years & a Feather in them & sheet on, "in the Quarter". every negro up. Made Alfred and Betsy ride him round the Quarter dis-  
mont and take a kiss, for quarreling, Jack & Lize Frank & Fan-  
ney the same

6 Clear warm, Hoeing at the G<sup>n</sup>. place, part verry grassy  
"fine" Cotten looks as well there as usual, to day is Elect-  
ion day through out Louisiana, for Repre<sup>ve</sup>. to Legislature & Con-  
gress, Candidates here for Legislature W<sup>m</sup> R. Barrow Cyrus Rat-  
liff Democrats, Genl M<sup>c</sup>Causland and James Sterling Whigs  
Congress Dawson & Morgan

7 Sprinkle of rain this morning & warm - verry heavy rain  
this afternoon, Hardest rain that has fallen this season, went  
to Town Voted for Ruggin & Ratliff for Legislators & Dawson  
for Congress - regret voting for Dawson

8 Cloudy warm, all hands hoeing this morning

9 Cloudy verry warm, my right fore finger has a rising  
on it and never any thing to trouble me more.

10 some clouds verry warm Finished hoeing 5<sup>th</sup>. time  
crop in fine order & looks well. from 1/2 thigh to over head  
high

11 Few clouds, verry warm - hard shower at dinner time,  
Gave the negros a dinner

12 Clear morning, verry warm my hand is improving, Ruffin  
& Ratliff elected to the Legislature, & Dawson to Congress by  
13 votes majority "only" the District has allways given Daw-  
son a Large majority. glad to see the people getting right  
'again' men change principalls never do

13 Verry warm day, Went to Town Executed a Mortgage to  
Louisiana Bank.

14 Cloudy verry warm, My Finger well, 5 hands sick  
shower rain on part of the Plantation Pulling Fodder

15 Few clouds, Cotten improved verry much, never had better  
prospects for a Large crop - from waist to over head high, well  
branched & balled, Corn verry fine, Louse Eaten cotten . . . ,  
Coming home last evening saw a bundle of Fodder stoped my  
horse & attempted to pick it up on him, as I reached down and  
got hold of it my horse wheeled round several times & down I  
came, no support but left hand in the main

16 Clear verry warm, Fell no bad effects from my Fall,  
light rain at dinner, all hands taking up Fodder this evening

17 Clear morning, verry warm all hands pulling Fodder

since dinner

18 Some clouds verry warm Went to assist Courtney in looking for some of his runaway negros hard shower at 11 O. & slow rain this evening.

19 Cloudy verry warm - Courtney Here last night Maj. Street of Natchez night before - some one has been quizing the Major. Writing him a letter signing my name &c. Verry hard rain at 4 O<sup>k</sup>

20 Clear warm - Moving My Gin stands giving a longer Band, hoeing "all hands" at G<sup>ns</sup> quit grassy in wet places

21 Cloudy verry warm, hands worked worse yesterday than they have this year, several sick, never saw ground look worse than P. R. bottom. owing to heavy rain on Sunday. Cotten small, best crop at G<sup>ns</sup> I ever had at this time of the year, hard at rain at dinner, & rainy evening. My son Bat. is decidedly the finest looking child I ever saw, the most beautiful head of hair, Eyes as black as can be - Cotten opening in every part of the field - Emily unwell, There appears to be no doubt but that Daniel Woodward murdered Genl. Joor from the confessions of his negro Who was with him, the same negro was with him When he attacked Frazier & family, and has confessed several other things that he and Woodward done, setting fire to a row of buildings in Woodville, he died too Easy a Death<sup>68</sup>

22 Cloudy bad looking day, all hands hoeing at G<sup>ns</sup> never saw a place washed as the two last rains have washed my plantation, P. R. bottom covered with water yesterday & Sunday, several sick, Women spinning great deal of rain fallen since 10 O.

23 Cloudy, threatning bad day, All hands hoeing at G<sup>ns</sup> Verry sickly. 10 sick "Fevers" hard shower at 1 O<sup>k</sup> - Robt. H. B & one of his schoolmates here to day, sun set Clear.

24 Clear pleasant, wind North, son of John Routh of Natchez & young Smith, came by to go a Fishing, old Cealy & Jenny quit sick all hands pulling Fodder this evening

25 Clear pleasant Morning Went to Town, 15 ploughs running

26 Clear verry warm, threatning rain since dinner - gave the negros Mucheto Bars.

27 Clear verry warm - never have been so out done with sickness before in my life, common practice dont cure them as

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<sup>68</sup> From the newspapers of the region it would appear that incidents of this type were not infrequent.

it use to, violent pains in the back red Tongue, 10 sick Cotten opening verry fast, can plough in places "only", verry heavy rain this evening stormy appearance, Gave Robt. Semple a verry fine young hound - my best young dog was killed by son John running his horse over him

28 Cloudy, damp & Foggy morning, all hands hoeing, too wet to plough, sun "When out" verry warm, ground quit Wet, 9 sick to day

29 Clear warm, hoeing P. R bottom, bad hoeing. Cotten improving from the lice - never was so out done with sickness 14 hands sick & convalescent, Several verry sick

30 Clear verry pleasant morning, to day appears more like settled weather than for two weeks past, stoped ploughs 10 scrapers running never saw a better Crop, good Fall & no storm will make 10 Bales to the hand, 9 sick "convalescent." My cook ran away day before yesterday. in riding round the field this morning found her, Lavenia thought she had been whipped unjustly owing to Jane (the Cook), let Lavenia give her a good drubing &c. Two thirds of my crop verry superior

31 Damp Cloudy morning, verry hard rain yesterday evening. 5 O. P. R. bottom covered with water, been too wet to hoe it for two weeks, Cleaning up Quarter this morning, & mowing Fodder & getting new Post for Gin Houses. White washing negro Houses inside, two sick, Light rain at 5 O. appearance of verry heavy rain below. Hoed Pond cut Cotten never saw it as good, the open Bolles rotting. great many rotting from wet weather

August 1 Morning Damp & Heavy Fogg. All hands hoeing, too wet to plough, L. Betsy taken verry sick this morning, cold & violent pain the stomach. (inflammation) &c. Wind shifted 'round to the North at 12 O. felt certain of clear weather. Sun out clear, the first thing I knew it was pouring down rain, Sun out in the West - go it rain, James and John went over to Ruffins

2 Foggy morning verry warm, no rain to day!

3 Morning warm Few clouds - There is a great deal of talk through the Country about abolition &c. Yet the people submit to Amalgamation in its worse Form in this Parish, Josias Grey takes his mulatto children with him and to public places &c. and receives simalar company from New Orleans, fine carriage & Horses, What is every bodys buisness is no bodys buisness, I made it my buisness yesterday Greys son with two of his visitors from the City had the impudence to pass here & through my Quarter, on a visit to see Purnells family. I ordered the negros if they returned this way to stop them, I rode in the field and When I returned found them stoped by all my negros.



(Who seemed to enter into it with prospects of fun) dressed as fine as could be, never were creatures worse scared. Alfred suffered them to Enter one Gate then shut both And had them completely Enclosed, they asked him What he ment by it. nothing says Alfred but you have to stay here 'till Master comes. As I rode up to them with a stick in my hand, and asked how dare they to pass here & through my Quarter, I never any thing humble as quick as they did, forgot all their high breeding and self greatness, and as Levi said he wondered if they could have seen Miss Purnell if she had of passed at the time, after appearing as though I intended Whipping them all. (there guide, an old negro of Greys Who had passed here frequently they said he took them through the Quarter & he acknowledged it) I told them to take the road as fast as they could and never to pass this way again, 'twas amusing to see which should not be behind in getting out of the gate (Levi says they all went out abreast) not more than 4 feet wide, the old negro was in the crowd one of them hit his horse saying stay behind John & (repeating it) &c. take your Whipping, the rest leaving saying with hats off thank you sir repeatedly, I asked the negro if he was not a preacher after hitting him with my stick, he said no sir but I am Fidler, told him he could go, thus Ended the chapter &c. this will cause some chat in the country & may have a good effect, all it wants is a start &c. Clear verry warm - Went over to Ruffins nothing like the quantity of rain that I've had, from appearance of his Cotten, nor as much on the Bowman place. My field adjoining the same - Ten Ploughs running new land above, 4 hands getting scaffold Boards in the swamp, hoeing old land Below. water in places - Betsy getting better, none other sick

4 Clear verry warm, last night verry hot, part of the Cotten in P. R. field verry much injured from being too thick. rows too narrow. Several sick slight - Toped 20 Acres of old Land Cotten in P. R. field - too thick owing to rows being too narrow

5 Clear verry warm, went to Williams to Breakfast found him & C. Davis going in the swamp Fishing - Went with them, small Trout bit well - &c. two sick to day

6 Clear verry warm, Finished hoeing below, hoeing new land above - Finished ploughing. running 10 ploughs "only" for two or three weeks past - one mile above me they have had just the rains they wanted, they say there never was such crops seen on the high Lands - Cotten opening verry fast. Picking cotten since dinner sucklers picked over 70 <sup>lb</sup>

7 Clear verry warm - several sick, picked over 180 weight Cotten to day. Could avreage 130 at least, all hands Mrs Hall & family here this morning & Finly of N. O.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Finley and Company of New Orleans were his factors.

- 8 Cloudy verry warm. Went Fishing Bit well
- 9 Cloudy Cool wind from the North. first cool night this summer, B. J. Barrow Engaged to Miss C. Hall to be married 1<sup>st</sup> Sept next
- 10 Clear cool morning. Blanket comfortable last night, all hands Picking Cotten Since dinner 9 sick, Sun verry Hot
- 11 Clear verry warm - Picking Cotten at G<sup>ns</sup>. 9 sick. one or two children quit sick George & Ben. Joor came down this morning, sprinkle rain
- 12 Cloudy verry warm - went Fishing no luck. fine rain at John Joors none here - repairing press Gins & putting up new post. &c.
- 13 Cloudy appearance of rain - went to Town - rain all round me. came as far as the lot. &c.
- 14 Clear wind from the North Commence working the road yesterday, Finished it to night
- 15 Night verry cold, Foggy morning, several sick, went Fishing. Putting post under Home Gin House and taking down Press. &c.
- 16 Clear, sun verry hot. several sick, Ruffins George cutting Female for me to day, Dug some Potatoes for negros
- 17 Clear warm - 5 sick. light sprinkle rain at 10. Cutting Female over
- 18 Clear warm morning all hands picking since yesterday, 10 sick Verry warm, raised Press this morning. Cotten opening verry fast. Av<sup>d</sup> yesterday 153 3/4 - 49 Picking - Shower rain on part plant<sup>n</sup>
- 19 Clear pleasant morning - 14 sick. Cannot account for so much sickness this year
- 20 Clear warm. my running Gear of the Gins does verry badly. 14 sick this morning, Cotten wants rain. well bolled had it not been for laking rains and worms on part of the Plant<sup>n</sup> would make 600 B.
- 21 Clear verry warm 8 sick
- 22 Clear verry Hot - never had a better crop taking it generally, bolled to the top & large - Verry hard rain at 2 O<sup>k</sup> wind blew quit a storm, was suffering verry much for want of a slow steady rain, the rain to day has fallen as hard as could fall, Worked the road & chopd weeds in House lot.

23 Few clouds, warm. wind from N. West - been up the two nights past 'till one O. negros sick. "inflammatory &c."

24 Clear very warm - & sultry, it commenced Lightning at 5 O. yesterday evening & continued incessantly 'till in the night. & verry heavy rain, working roade, some spinning, Pressed 9 Bales. 7 yesterday, hoed P. R. new ground, picking Cotten since dinner.

25 Clear warm. great deal of Thundering last night, in the North. two negros verry sick yesterday high Fever & violent pain in the head, every case requires free use of the Lancet, never had sickness before Picking Cotten at G<sup>ns</sup> - never had as good a crop such a season from this as last was would make 10 Bales or more to every thing that works in the field. ground that never produced cotten more than waist & shoulder high now 7 feet & well Bolled. P. Rice bottom has failed owing to Lice in the spring & heavy rains 3 weeks since & now the worms Eating Forms off.

26 Clear verry warm - went to Town. Miss M Swift came near being seriously hurt in going down the big Hill from Town the Gear came loose & Buggy turned upset & brok to pieces pitched her out on her head jno. E. Barrow driving her, pittty did'ent breake his neck

27 Clear verry warm, Sickness still continuing, never knew any thing like it has been in the last 4 weeks, some with Fevers 4 & 5 days, hands picked well for two days past. av<sup>d</sup> 185 <sup>10</sup>.

28 Clear verry warm, picking verry clean Cotten. Cotten Fallen off verry much in the last week, Received a note from Woodville informing us that Mrs. Joor was verry ill, Emily left Home at 4 O. very hard rain at 5 O. never made as little head way in Picking Cotten 20 hands of the best Hands out of the field.

29 Clear warm, Hoeing new ground at G<sup>ns</sup> verry grassy, too wet to pick cotten

Sept 3 Returned from Woodville last night Mrs Joor verry ill, Boy after me this morning, two Severe Storms here on 28 & 29. great many sick & nothing done this week, never have heard of as much sickness as is in the country at this time. Shiped 36 Bales yesterday 2<sup>d</sup>. D<sup>r</sup> Walker gone up this morning to see Mrs Joor, D<sup>r</sup> Stone & Martins bad management or she would have reco<sup>d</sup> last Sunday. Returned Home this evening, went to Town to Bennet J. Barrows wedding Married to Miss Caroline Hall a verry fine young Lady

4 Clear turned quit cold since yesterday, Tisdale<sup>70</sup> has brought me 4 verry finely looking Hounds, never saw worse looking cotten. twisted trash beat in it & stained cotten blown so as not able to trace the rows, worms Eating all the Leaves off, letters from below states that the Catapeller has destroyed some crops & in the course of two nights

5 Clear cold night, 7 & 8 hands to keep one Gin running, several sick

6 Clear pleasant morning, Went over to Ruffins. has up 6 verry fine Looking colts two & three years old - Emily returned from Wood<sup>e</sup> yesterday evening. Mrs Joor improving

7 Clear pleasant. Picking Cotten at Gibson place. part never picked. verry trashy & rotten something over 70 Bales out.

8 Clear pleasant morning, sun verry hot to day, 3 sick this morning. commenced giving the negros Bitters of Dogwood & cherry Bark & Whiskey every morning, I think my hands pick worse this year than I ever knew them, must be owing to the Cotten

9 Clear pleasant morning 50 Bales behind last years picking, Cotten is well Bolled Excepting P rice field old Land - owing to worms & heavy rains too large

10 Cloudy, pleasant breeze from the North

11 Clear cold wind from the North, Hands picked well yesterday. Avd 211 lb great deal of Cotten open, Press gave out at G<sup>ns</sup>. Cotten opening verry fast, cold dry wind from the North

12 Clear Quit Cold, Wind from the East. Several sick over one hundred Bales out

13 Clear pleasant over 110 Bales out last night

14 Clear pleasant, Hawling cotten to B. Sarah

15 Clear pleasant. picking cotten old Land below, Capt Howells negros came to my Gin House at the G<sup>ns</sup> place, to steal cotten Jerry ran them so close that they dropped two bags, upwards of 75 lb. A meaner set than the Howells do not live - cruel & unjust in the extreme, caught a young Boy of his in the G<sup>ns</sup> Gin House this morning ironed up his leg & thigh & chain round his neck, nearly a solid scab.

16 Clear pleasant, several sick, picking verry trashy Cotten W Joor came down, Hawled Cotten.

17 Cloudy warm, hands picked better by dinner than they have done this year. cleaner cotten & more of it, Piano tuner here to day tuning the Piano, Emily & children went to Ruffins, Cutting new Female for Press at G<sup>ns</sup> the Auger caught my arm & rist and never had any thing to hurt worse, came near breaking my arm

18 Raining since midnight. Appearance of bad weather, never had more Cotten open White every Where, over 140 Bales out last night 25 Bales at least Behind last year, hands have not picked to please me, would do verry well for two weeks past had they of picked clean cotten, turning verry cold.

19 Clear. Fire comfortable, Picking cotten since Breakfast

20 Clear morning & night quit cool, never Felt a more pleasant day than yesterday, Went to see Ruffins Horses. Am verry much pleased with them

21 Clear cold night. hands picked badly 1<sup>st</sup> weighing 9 0<sup>k</sup>.

22 Clear verry pleasant, hands picked better yesterday than they have done Av<sup>d</sup> 208 clean cotten, My new hounds perform verry well, parts of the field look as though fire had been through them, worms or catapiller rapping themselves up in the Leaves, And die Leaving black round shell

23 Raining cool wind from the East, women spinning since dinner. men trashing cotten

24 Great deal of rain since yesterday, bad looking morning, several sick Putting corn this evening, turning out well

25 Fogg Eaguel to a rain this morning & verry warm

26 Verry warm & Foggy morning, Picking cotten in Penrice bottom, worms have et every thing off of it, looks as though Fire had been through it, verry trashey & rotten, Catapiller Eating every thing clean &c. over 170 Bales out last night. Picking verry trashy cotten

27 Foggy morning, summer for the last week - one hundred And Eighty Bales "or over" out last night. Between 35 & 45 Bales Behind last years picking. as much weighed in or more Cotten much heavier, 3 weeks picking not set down - Went to see the newly married couple, Bennet J Barrow & Lady, appear quit happy, verry pretty place

28 Few clouds warm - Pulling corn in the bottoms verry much rotten owing to storm blowing it down - &c.

29 Warm. sprinkling rain wind from the East, Fields look like winter Catapillers carrying everything before them, geat deal of corn wet, compelled to gather too green, over Large crib full off of the Bottoms & 12 Acres upland. Verry fine turn out & very fine corn

30 Damp Foggy & verry warm Emily quit unwell last night bad cold & sore throat Men shucking corn & women trashing Cotten since yesterday morning

October 1 Cloudy Foggy & warm Made all hands stop & trash cotten this morning, 185 B out, between 35 & 50 B. behind last year.

2 Great Quantity of rain fallen since yesterday no appearance of ceasing, Making my Gin Band Wheels smaller, nearly killed up the mules pulling one Gin, never was any one so bothered with having crop Gined, Sent to N. Orleans for castings &c. Women trashing Cotten men doing little of every thing, not much of any thing, raining verry hard at 9 & 10 O<sup>k</sup>. Wind from the south East. Will shorten the crop considerable, verry rotten before this, and nearly all open, Every thing seems against the planter these times, Emily throat much better this morning, started my Gin since altering the Band Wheel & it runs verry light, better than ever

3 Clear verry cold, turned cold yesterday evening 28 degrees colder than yesterday morning

4 Cloudy cold. Rec<sup>d</sup> notice of the Death of Mrs Genl. Brandon died yesterday morning at her mothers "Mrs Wades" - Leaving three children - Went up to Brandons in mi.. with the procession. verry much disappointed in the appearance of Brandons place. Expected to find every thing fine & neat, "just the reverse" - returning got in B. J. B. carriage Horses balked in the creek much amused at Bennet & his Driver &c.

5 Clear Fall morning, cool, Never have seen any thing to Eaquel the Appearance of the Cotten fields as though we had frost some time since, & the trashyist stuff I ever saw, some of my young Hands are doing verry Badly, Ralph Wash E. Nat E Jim Jim T. Henry Isreal Harriet Sam & Maria Lewis & Randall

6 Drizzling rain. verry warm. never more surprised than to see it raining this morning. Went to Town. bad news from the Cotten market

7 Cloudy warm, hands picked higher yesterday than, for some days - & to day

8 Cloudy warm - Large Party came down from Natchez yesterday, Son of John Routh to marry Miss Ann Skilman to night,

all at Ruffins to night, nearly every body is invited to the Wedding but the Barrow family

9 Cloudy verry warm, never saw more cotten open to the Acre. & verry trashy

10 Cloudy verry warm night David Johnson & M<sup>r</sup> Walker of Natchez came here last night after we were all a sleep &c.

11 Clear verry pleasant - Gave the negros shoes.

12 Clear pleasant night & morning Family went to D Barrows, several sick, slight chills & Fevers - Rec<sup>d</sup> with the Pilot an Extra containing important facts, in . . . Genl. Jackson M Van Buren & Co - A baser set never lived

13 Few clouds warm. Over 230 Bales out last night I think my hands have Picked cotten worse this year than in several years picked it verry trashy & not better weights nor as good as common, intend Whipping them straght

14 Clear verry pleasant. Allexander Barrow & family here last night, Went over to Ruffins hunting &c. my hands done verry badly last night

15 Clear verry pleasant, Never have been more dissatisfied with my hands all Excepting 'Lize I. Hannah Jensey Atean & Margaret, am sattisfied the best plan is to give them every thing they require for their comfort and never that they will do without Whipping or some punishment, My negros have their name up in the neighbourhood for making more than any one else & they think Whatever they do is better than any body Else - &c.

16 Cloudy verry warm - Ben. S. Joor came down yesterday, hands still doing verry badly, Verry hard rain at 3 O<sup>k</sup> - several sick or pretending to be - Slight rain on G<sup>ns</sup> place

17 Morning clear verry warm, Worked road in the field, before Breakfast, Picking cotten since, at Least 250 Bales cotten out to night in N<sup>o</sup>.

18 Cloudy Verry warm - appearance of rain

19 Rain this morning, Verry warm all Hands trashing Cotten, Gathering Corn since 9 O<sup>k</sup>

20 Cloudy pleasant, several sick negros one infant verry ill, Caroline sick

21 Cloudy somewhat cooler wind East

22 Clear quit cold - Thermometer 51 1/2 at 6 O<sup>k</sup>, Went to

see Ruffins Horses this morning, cotten still as trashy as can be.

23 Clear quit cold this morning & last night, Gathering Peas, Cotten still verry dull in N. O. owing somewhat to the unsettled affairs of Euorope, Several Gent<sup>s</sup> came by to go Driving, much against my wish, not willing to run my Hounds after Deer

24 Clear, considerable wind from the N. East - verry cold day

25 Clear verry cold, Frost

26 Clear verry cold, Frost, Went to Town

27 Clear verry pleasant turning warm & cloudy this evening

28 Raining, warm, wind South - Received casting for Big Wheel Cate & Essex putting them up.

29 Cloudy. wind North. appearance of clearing off, Pulled some corn this morning. Several sick two cases of Pleurisy

30 Cloudy verry cold. N<sup>w</sup> wind - went over to Ruffins &c.

31 Clear verry pleasant. went driving. Col A G Barrow D L. Johnson W Rucker jno. C. Brady jno Joor & George Joor here last night went it on champagin till one O K. to night

November 1 Clear verry pleasant

2 Cloudy cool East wind - Went to Town & voted for Genl. W. H. Harrison for President & Tyler for Vice President

3 Cloudy verry dissagreable day digging Potatoes

4 Clear Verry pleasant, Finished digging Potatoes large & fine made 25 verry Large Hill.

5 Cloudy verry warm day Wind South East

6 Cloudy verry warm. M. Barrow Lady & sister in Law with us last night. Son Bat quit sick last night Violent cold, sprinkle rain this evening.

7 Damp. Fogg Eaquel to rain, Cleared off verry pleasant

8 Clear cold. North Wind Bennet J. Barrow & Lady Robt. J. Barrow & family here to day

9 Clear coldest morning this fall I think a killing



frost this morning Went to Town. the Election as far as we can hear is going for Genl. Harrison for President

10 Clear verry pleasant, D<sup>r</sup> Lyle D<sup>r</sup> Walker & John Joor here last night. Went out Fox hunting after supper, turned a Fox loose I caught seven days since, ran short time treed knocked him out. ran few minutes & caught it, started a cat & never heard such music. or such a race ran one hour & 1/2 and caught it, son Bat still quit sick & John, violent cold

11 Hard rain at day light & great deal of thunder, Verry warm - appearance of a bad day, Cleared off delightfull since dinner, Between 335 & 45 B out at least

12 Clear verry pleasant, Apple trees verry full of Apples size of Pigeons eggs &c.

13 Clear pleasant. Found Where some of Robt. H. Barrows negros killed one of my Cows in their field several of them runaway & several of Wades

14 Cloudy disagreeable morning, several sick. 5 children colds &c.

15 Clear verry pleasant.

16 Fogg Eaquel to a rain. Warm Several little negro children verry sick with Colds, Between 360 & 380 Bales out tonight. Sold 126 at 9 9 1/2 & 8 3/4. Cotten still on the decline owing to prospect of War Between Franch & England & other Eouropn powers

17 Fogg like rain, warm

18 Clear verry cold rain last night, Started with jno Joor D<sup>r</sup> Walker & Towels for Robt Semple<sup>s</sup> Met him returned to my House. Son Bat verry sick

19 Clear verry cold Freezing, Sister Ann came this evening

20 Cloudy cold East wind since 7 Ok

21 Cloudy warm & Verry Windy Shiped 96 Bales 222 in all, Uncommon hard rain & wind at 1 Ok, trashing cotten and gathering seed corn "since"

22 Few Clouds turning verry cold son Bat not as well since yesterday evening Liver torpid - Bat verry ill since dinner

23 Between 370 & 385 B. out, certain 222 shiped in N<sup>o</sup> 247 Pressed in N<sup>o</sup> 255 Gined in N<sup>o</sup>. Clear verry cold. ground

White as snow. Bat Better this morning, Ruffins daughter Anna died this morning at 3 O<sup>k</sup> Verry unexpected, no appearance of danger at Eleven O<sup>k</sup> suffocated, Verry Violent cold, his infant Emma was & is considered quit dangerous, Anna no thought of her being ill, Gathering corn.

24 Raining. Son Bat much Better this morning, Wind blowing verry cold. "misting"

25 Cloudy verry cold & windy Gathering corn

26 Clear verry cold. coldest day this Season "by far," Ground frozen and ice all day

27 Clear cold. Finished pulling corn Breakfast time

28 Clear Verry pleasant day

29 Clear verry pleasant day, Went over to see a trial run between 2 of Ruffins colts & one A. Barrow

30 Cloudy pleasant

December 1 Cloudy pleasant, Four weeks picking of good Weather, 400 Bales out or there about

2 Cloudy pleasant morning

3 Cloudy pleasant morning, Gathered one Large crib "full" of corn closely slip<sup>d</sup> shucked, and two small ones, and one third of the Large one, More rotten corn this Season than I ever had. Wet Fall, & being well yeard fell down, Verry heavy rain fell from 2 till 5 O<sup>k</sup> and cold

4 Cloudy cold wind from the North, Went yesterday evening to look for some runaways, could'ent find them, one of Bennet J. B<sup>s</sup> boys looking for cows yesterday attempted to kill one of my hogs, Kiah came on him he ran off &c. his favorite boy Buck - all hands trashing Cotten, David Barrow here to day, Wishes me to Buy Old Howell out for him & Uncle

5 Cloudy Very cold

6 Clear verry cold

7 Cloudy cold East wind

8 Cloudy pleasant. Went to Town

9 Light rain - Cloudy warm, sent to Town after jno., May-rant Races Begin in New Orleans.

10 Cloudy pleasant. Finished Picking upper side Plan<sup>tn</sup>

11 Raining at day Light Verry warm - 325 Bales Gined in No<sup>o</sup> 420 out in No<sup>o</sup> over 440 out of 400 <sup>hrs</sup> 3 weeks picking, Would have Finished the Gibson place to day but for the rain, verry heavy rain at dark

12 Cloudy turning cool, Great quantity of rain fallen since yesterday morning, Ruffins youngest child died last night (Emma) Lingerin for 3 weeks past, Effect of cold, Ruffin absent, in N. Orleans

13 Clear and as Beautifull a day as could be. pleasant, More like spring than December, Rece<sup>d</sup> a negro woman (cook) yesterday evening on trial

14 Few clouds verry pleasant.

15 Clear spring morning, Foggy

16 Verry heavy fogg Early this morning, Clear verry pleasant since

17 Clear cool morning, B S. Joor here since Sunday night, Left Home for E. Feliciana on a visit to Fluker & for a Fox hunt

19 Cloudy and Extremely cold Returned Home this evening from East Feliciana, Never saw as worthless a set of Hounds as they have, couldnt start a Fox. dogs do not know anything about trailing, &c. Several Sick, the manners of the people in E. F. are verry different from those in this Parish, Regret not taking my Hounds out with me, saw two hounds said to be of the Irish stock "of Maryland" hunt finely but untrained, &c.

20 Raining since last night. short time after dark. cold Wind from the North

21 Clear cold morning. Joseph Joor came from College last night, Went to Town, Pork fallen from \$18 to \$13.50

22 Cloudy Cool East Wind, M. Courtneys Gin House & 75 Bales of cotten burnt down night before last. supposed to have been set on Fire by some of his negro<sup>s</sup> several verry rascally one in the woods

23 Cloudy Cool. Went to a Party Given by John Harbour at Douces. Great many there, verry pleasant not with standing some scoundrel stole my Gloves knife & cap out of my Buggy, Came Home bare headed

24 Cloudy verry cold, Gave the negros money last night \$700. all went to Town to day

25 Cloudy cool, Christmast Looks dull at the Begining

- 26 Clear spring "day". J. Joor came down last night  
27 Clear verry cold Wind from the North  
28 Windy verry cold - Went to Town Extremely cold  
29 Cloudy cold. negros preparing for a Dinner  
30 Raining, appearance of Bad Weather, warm  
31 Cloudy verry Cold - & raining

1841

January 1 Cloudy & verry Cold Cleared off, Times still Hard but much improved since last year, provisions are moderate. Cotten verry Low from 6<sup>c</sup> to 12<sup>c</sup> general sales at 8<sup>c</sup> & 9<sup>c</sup> - Yesterday being Friday Negros still have Holliday, 12 days

2 Clear Verry cold, as White a Frost as I ever saw & everything Frozen

3 Clear Verry cold. Gave the negros a verry fine dinner yesterday evening at the House and afterwards inspected their manners in the Ballroom several acted very rude as usual. put them in Jail &c.<sup>71</sup>

4 Raining, cool. Cleared off at Breakfast. Raining again at 12 O. Bad Beginning for a New Year having com<sup>d</sup> work to day, 376 B. Pressed in N<sup>o</sup>.

5 Cloudy Verry Damp. Feels like spring morning, Trashing Cotten, Filling up washes

6 Cloudy Verry warm, two or three days Picking. Pork selling Prime \$10. Mess \$12 & 13. Horses "work" from \$60 to \$110, Verry Hard rain after 10 O<sup>k</sup> ground verry Wet

7 Cloudy cool, Jno., Mayrant came here this Evening

8 Cloudy pleasant.

9 Prevented from going to New Orleans to day by Rain, Verry bad looking day rainy since midnight, Jno., Mayrant speaks of going to India as overseer in the culture of cotten to the India Company, \$5000 a year salary

10 Foggy, Dark morning, Raining since one O<sup>k</sup>

11 Cloudy cool - Damp mist Cleared off verry pleasant.

12 Cloudy morning, verry hard during the evening

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<sup>71</sup> A rather unusual incident in the ante-bellum South.

13 Great deal of rain fallen never saw worse weather, Mrs Joor came down in the rain yesterday

14 Cloudy cool. Thomas Dawson surveying my cleared Land 800 Acres in Cultivation, negros getting quit Lazy

15 Cool damp morning.

26 Returned home from N. Orleans this morning 4 o'clock - it has been raining for 4 weeks past, and raining now. never hear of such a spell of Bad weather. times still dull in N. Orleans, Cotten a Little improved. meat from \$9 to \$12 - Caught verry severe cold in the city. &c. Ground verry wet, Can't plough, Warm rainy Evening. Very Little Work done this year, some spinning trashing Cotten, mauling rails, Left N. Orleans on the Angora. 24 Hours running to Baton Rouge. left her, got on Board the Swallow. got B Sara on O.K. Emily & Caroline quit pleased With their New suits, &c.

27 Warm Foggy morning, Eaquel to a rain, Summer day, 50 Bales to Gin, "or more" - Bought seventy pair of Blankets, in N. O. \$4.25 a pair, 3 point French Blankets Written to N. O. for a Teacher. Miss Mayhew

28 Warm & Foggy morning, trying to start some ploughs, started Eleven Ploughs, ground verry Heavy, Horses in better order than usual

29 Cloudy Turning cool. Wind from the North, Went to Town. Roads in retched order nearly a Bog in Town.

30 Cloudy Cold, 15 ploughs running. for corn, threatning rain since 10 o'clock Raining since dinner, "Cold"

31 Bad looking day, steady rain during last night hard rain this morning

February 1 Cleared off Cold. Uncle Bat here since yesterday. caught by creeks, rare circumstance for him to stay or even call any where, Taken with Pain in my right side this morning. Uncle Eled me. &c.

6 First morning I've been out of my room, confined in Bed 3 days with Congestion of the Liver, great soreness yet, have not been confined by sickness for upwards of 16 years. "before this week" - Cloudy cool. two fair days this week, no appearance of weather Breaking, total Eclipse of the moon last night, 16 Ploughs running, raining since dinner

7 Cloudy cool, raining during the Night, my side still pains, Fearfull of a settled Liver complaint, Uncle Bat called by this morning, Tho. Joor here to day

8 Damp cloudy morning, & cool. Feel much better this morn-

ing, nearly Clear of pain. 30 Double Ploughs running. Rode in the field this morning, feel much better

9 Cloudy cool morning

10 Cloudy cold. Ledoux & Co has sold 84 Bales Cotten verry badly

11 Cloudy Freezing day & windy, ground Frozen. Can't plough

12 Every thing Frozen, ground White as snow, Miss Mayhew the school mistress Came on the 10<sup>th</sup> - so far verry much pleased with her

13 Clear Verry Cold, wind from the North West, M<sup>r</sup> & Mrs King here last night, the D<sup>r</sup> gives a verry Flatering description of Texas &c. 19 Double ploughs running. 120 Acres ploughed for Cotten 4 Furrows & one days ploughing for corn, Lapping the 1<sup>st</sup> furrow, never did it before - Clear verry cold & windy, from the South West, 230 Bales to Gin

14 Clear verry windy & cool - March day

15 Clear Verry cold, Went to Town to Church yesterday, Caroline Joor & D<sup>r</sup> Walker, M<sup>r</sup> James Flower D<sup>r</sup> Lyle here since yesterday afternoon

16 Clear pleasant. Went with Family to judge Wades

17 Clear Verry pleasant. Like spring, Mrs B. J. Barrow & Miss Gertrude Hall Called this morning few minutes, What may be termed a Fashionable Visit

18 Clear Verry pleasant, Went to Town left this Home at 1/2 past 6 O. Horse ran off in the Buggy. stoped him without any damage, trusted his years, & ran him from Douces to Town & Back home, going & coming in one hour & twenty minutes. 20 mile, horse been ploughing for 3 weeks, Went to Robt. J. Barrows with Family

19 Very Foggy morning. Never Experienced more pleasant weather since Sunday Last, Since D<sup>r</sup> Kings Return from Texas it has given a number of us the Texas Fever - Went to Bennet J. Barrows With Family & Caroline. &c.

20 Very Heavy Foggy, & warm Mrs Joor & John here to day - Commenced hawling Cotten seed on corn Land, Finished ploughing all Land above 3 4 & 5 furrows 35 Acres ploughing for Cotten & two days ploughing for corn. "bottoms" - Old Mrs Mathews called here to day 1<sup>st</sup> visit, call on Mrs Joor & Caroline "I presume"

21 Cloudy verry warm summer morning - Finished Ginning.  
Excepting trash cotten

22 Clear pleasant Went to Town, Oration by one of the  
Odd Fellows Came out & got Caroline & returned to a Ball

23 Clear Verry pleasant. returned Home this evening.  
quit a pleasant party last night in Town

24 Cloudy Warm Morning turned cold since noon, Sister  
Ann & D<sup>r</sup> King here since last night, D<sup>r</sup> King prescribed for Old  
Lucey Fills wife. &c.

25 Few clouds pleasant - Finish ploughing 4 furrows all  
the Home place by Dinner, Women spinning

26 Few Clouds. Verry warm - Twenty two Ploughs running,  
Pulled a piece of glass out of James foot. diamond shape 1/4  
of anch Each square - been in 6 years strange did'ent produce  
Lock Jaw

27 Cloudy. Summer day - Light shower last night - Went  
Driving no Luck - Light rain since dinner great deal of  
Thunder. B. S. Joor came down this evening

28 Cloudy Verry warm day - Smokey for 3 weeks past

March 1 Raining, intended planting corn to day, one Large  
crib & one small crib full of corn - over 5<sup>th</sup> of small one

2 Cloudy damp morning Went to see Ruffins race Horses.  
I think they look out of condition

3 Cloudy cool Wind from the North - Went to Town -  
cleared off

4 Clear day, morning Foggy. Planting corn, ground rather  
Wet in old Land, Little Lucey Verry badly salivated, tongue &  
mouth badly swollen

5 Cloudy Damp morning, Left Home Last night after supper,  
Went to Town to a Ball, remained there 2 hours & returned Home  
by 2 OK

6 Cloudy cool Wind from the North, Great deal of rain  
fallen since yesterday noon, raining hard during last night,  
Women spinning men trashing Cotten, Clearing a new road to  
the creek

7 Morning Foggy, never saw a more beautiful day, all corn  
of corn planted, D<sup>r</sup> King here to day, M<sup>r</sup> Fields & Warr of Har-  
tucky here this morning, Wanting to Buy Joe Bell, asked them  
\$4000 cash



8 Clear Cool morning, ground Baked Verry hard. doubtfull of a stand of corn in old Land - Ploughing Gibson place, Women making fence - Went driving no Luck

9 Cloudy damp East Wind, Caroline Joor returned from Woodville, intends remaining here to school - Miss Mayhew and myself had quit a talk this morning about her mis management of the children, &c. Verry hard rain at two O<sup>K</sup> Would have Finished running round 4 furrows this evening, but for the rain at 2 O. several sick, raining as hard as it can

10 Cloudy cool Wind North. disappointed in going to the Party last night at M<sup>r</sup> Halls, "in Town" jnc. Joor here, every place filled with water making new roade

11 Cloudy cold, Wind from North

12 Clear & cold. Wind from the South verry singular change Wind changing from the North to South & clearing off. and still as cold or colder

13 Clear Verry cold morning. White Frost ground lightly Frozen, Com'e<sup>d</sup> breaking out middles yesterday morning, W. H. B here this evening reports Cotten improving, & meat falling

14 Foggy morning, appearance of spring again

15 Few Clouds, Warm spring day Went Driving yesterday no luck. Planting Corn again, ground verry much baked on that planted first. &c.

16 Clear cool morning. great change since yesterday, running harrows over corn, doubtfull of its coming up

17 Clear pleasant - Cool

18 Clear cool morning. pleasant day, George Joor came down yesterday, cleaning up the Bayous for corn - James Leake & Lewis Turner called by this Went driving Just before reaching the Clark field, Met C. C. McDermott and Richard Butler, "Who is sanctily sanctified" With a Turkey behind Butler. they agreed to turn & Join us in our hunt. Leake accused them of having robbed Old Jo<sup>s</sup> penn<sup>s</sup>. M<sup>c</sup>D. acknowledged it &c. I went in the Drive Leake placed them to their stands, Butler at the 1<sup>st</sup> on his returning to me found Joshua had traced his stolen Turkey to B<sup>e</sup>r horse, And had B penned. Leake asked him Where he was going, gwine to get my Turkey, Butler was so conscious stricken he gave it up after having seen me & I gave it to him, I asked him Why he had not kept it, observed he gave it up as he did not feel altogether right about it, acknowledging him<sup>72</sup> self guilty of stealing - Bothe of them members of the church

19 Cloudy damp morning, Old Mrs Yates came to see us yesterday, Com<sup>a</sup> on new crib of corn yesterday one Large & one small one full

20 Morning cloudy & warm. Went Driving with D<sup>r</sup> Lyle D<sup>r</sup> Walker & A. G. Barrow started a number of Deer standers not at the right stand, &c. Mrs Yates or in other words old Aunt Sally quite complimentary to Caroline this Evening, Beautifull complection. &c. or the most Beautifull Complection in Wilk-inson C<sup>ty</sup> Mississippi - I feel much Fatigued, Miss Caroline Joor Miss Caroline Joor, Miss Caroline Joor - March 20 1841 - Miss Caroline Joor, March 20 1841, Mrs Emily Barrow. Mrs Sally Yates. Miss Mayhew - Martins made their Appearance to day, 20 days later than Last year

21 Cloudy. Warm. light sprinkle last night, Still uneasy about my corn getting verry dry & ground hard

22 Cloudy Damp & warm - Verry Windy day, planting corn over again, (old Land Part)

23 Clear Beautifull morning, fine rain for corn last night, heavy Wind.

24 Cloudy Damp morning, Finished breaking out middles at ~~4<sup>PM</sup>~~ Breaking out middles in P. rice Bottom, two days ploughing only. more forward than ever I was, Twenty two dowble ploughs running.

25 Cloudy cool & Damp morning quit cold yesterday evening, some corn coming up

26 Cloudy warm, Went Driving yesterday, much against my wish. D<sup>r</sup> W. shot two Deer Killed one in its tracks. Dogs caught the other, Threatning rain since noon. Misty Evening. Young W<sup>m</sup> Stirling called for me & my Dogs, to assist in Looking for M Courtneys runaway, in Mrs Stirlings Quarter at dinner time, &c.<sup>73</sup> Robt. J. Barrow made me a present of the Best Spanish mare I ever saw, brought by him from Texas, superior form, clay colour with a black stripe down the Back

27 Cloudy Verry warm, Wind East - Finished breaking out middles by 9 Oclock, more forward in ploughing than ever I was by at Least ten days, 15 Acres of bottoms to plough for corn, Misty rain

28 Cloudy verry warm - appearance of Bad Weather Jerard Richardson sent me a present of Four young hounds this morning, Light showers during the day, fine for the corn, coming up in places

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<sup>73</sup> Planters often assisted each other in the search for runaways.

29 Few clouds, turned quit cool last night, Com'enced planting Cotten this morning with 10 ploughs & Harrows, sowing it

30 Clear cool night & morning

31 Cloudy cool East Wind, Went to Town yesterday, Verry dusty ground Verry dry, Went to a party at A. G. Howels with Emily & Caroline, quit a crowd of gentleman & few Ladies

April 1 Cloudy cool East Wind, Finished planting cotten above, by Breakfast time, 350 Acres, Planting Gibson place, droped 90 Acres. Bought seed, rain at 10 O<sup>k</sup> Went Driving started several Deer killed one - never made or saw a more Beautifull shot

2 Raining this morning, ground in fine order for planting Went driving this morning Killed small Deer, Cleared off warm

3 Verry hard Rain this morning, Verry bad stand of corn as yet, 150 Acres of cotten to plant, appearance of a rainy spell, great quantity of rain fallen

4 Cloudy warm, &c. rainy day

5 Cleared off Last night, Foggy morning, transplanting corn, uncommon bad stand of corn, cotten seed swelling. Replanting corn, ground Verry Wet, stopping Wash in house lot with Cypress Pickets

6 Few clouds Verry pleasant. seeding corn, planting pumpkins & water melons, Ploughing corn Most of it just coming up. Verry hard rain from 4 O<sup>k</sup> Went with Family to A. G. Barrow returned in the rain, threatned with an attack of My Liver again

7 Raining and no appearance of ceasing, W<sup>m</sup> Joor came down yesterday Evening, some appearance of clearing off since 10 O<sup>k</sup> Verry warm summer day.

8 Cloudy Damp morning, Verry warm, Women spinning, men making Fence & digging Dock up in the front Lot, E Skilman came by Went Driving Killed two Deer, a Poleander here to day quit a musical genius, repairing two musical Boxes

9 Cloudy Verry warm, planting Cotten "again" - Cotten first planted up & fine stand 500 Acres up, never had a worse prospect for corn, all replanted bad stand

10 Cloudy Verry warm - Finished planting cotten by . . .  
O<sup>k</sup> to day

11 Cloudy verry warm in returning from Town yesterday, saw a negro on Robt. J. Barrow Filley 2 ye<sup>a</sup> old. "R. J. B along with me" stoped the Boy found him to be a runaway, had

been sent to Town by some runaways of Courtneys & Wades negro<sup>s</sup>, had with him sugar coffee Whiskey candy & Pomatum Powder &c. dressed as well as any body servant, passing himself off for Wades servant, tied him & put him on Robert horse behind the buggy as we got to Jos Bells stables he jumped off & away he went. Robert Ruffin & myself after him. Called my dogs and boy ran nearly to Wades & succeeded in taking him verriy likely colour of an Indian, been in the neighbourhood for nearly a year harboured by Wades & Robert H E. negro<sup>s</sup>, took him to day over to Wades made him point out such negro<sup>s</sup> as he knew, & Wade appeared not care much about it, though proud he had been in his plantation constant for nearly 6 months & allso two of Courtneys, then went over to Robert J. Barrows he knew several of his negro<sup>s</sup> seeing them passing only, brought him home with me. he knew none of my negro<sup>s</sup> harboured by one at Robt. H. B place "boy Josh" - Expect to catch Courtneys to night.

12 Clear quit cold wind from the North, light shower last night, attended a Family meeting in Town last Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Mrs Eliza Bowman is about to Marry H. A Lyons Jr. A low trifling sponge looked upon as mean & a Dandy from the North. repeatedly saying he would never marry a woman that was not rich, &c.

13 Clear cool morning, Went Last night over to Robt. H. Barrows. Joshua by agreement had betrayed Isaac Catheran & Hester (Courtneys runaways) in to his House. took them both brought them to my House, Ruffin Towles Robert J B. & several others here to day, a general Frollick, nothing could have happened more appripo, Wades Place a general harbour, Living on the neighbours stock, Wade does not more than half feed his negro<sup>s</sup>,<sup>74</sup> commenced barring of Cotten Mr<sup>s</sup> Eliza Bowman married to H. A. Lyons - Was married in the city - and left for the North the same evening, having heard they were to be serenaded with Tin pans & other like instruments

14 Clear Verry pleasant

15 Clear Verry pleasant, Went Driving great many in Company. no luck, stoped barring off Cotten, making Potatoe ridges & ploughing bottoms for corn - hoed 120 Acres of corn

16 Cloudy damp morning, Dennis is pretending to be runaway, hunting for jno. Towles runaway.<sup>75</sup>

17 Cloudy Verry warm - Finished planting Potatoes. Caroline Went & brought Miss Woodard Home with her yesterday even-

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<sup>74</sup> Poor or insufficient diet was a common cause of slaves running away.

<sup>75</sup> A rather unusual method of securing runaways. Barrow apparently had implicit faith in Dennis

ing, threatning rain

18 Clear cool morning, Verry heavy storm & Wind last night for a few minutes & light shower rain, Went Fishing at Ratliffs Lake yesterday, quit a pleasant day. Mrs Jo<sup>s</sup> Smith, Miss Margaret Swift, Miss Mary Woodward of E. Feliciana and Miss C. Joor. several Ducked, Cloudy since 9 O<sup>k</sup> appearance of rain

19 Clear cool morning & night quit cold - Commenced scrap- ing cotten this morning at 10 Ok. 40 hands. 15 ploughs barring off.

20 Quite a stormy night, raining this morning. Went with Family yesterday to M<sup>r</sup>. Jo. Smith. Cleared off verry pleasant since 11 Oclock. rain Enough<sup>f</sup> to Lay tne Dust.

21 Clear cool morning, scraping old Land full of fine grass, in corn last year, 10 ploughs barring off, Digging well in Quarter, Received News from Washington of the Death of Pres- ident Genl W. H. Harrison died on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April of Pleur- isy, in office one month, Vice President Tyler will fill his place

22 Few clouds cool night & morning 10 Ploughs barring off.

23 Clear cool morning, verry bad scraping till last night. old corn Land, &c.

24 Few clouds warm - M<sup>r</sup>. Thorp<sup>76</sup> came out to take Caroline Joor<sup>s</sup> Portrait. 15 ploughs running. ploughing corn at G<sup>ns</sup> Verry bad stand

25 Clear Verry pleasant. ground Verry dry

26 Clear Verry pleasant. 50 hoe hands scraping Cotten, M<sup>r</sup>. Theur Com<sup>d</sup> giving Caroline Joor & Emily music Lessons plays Verry finely, son Bat taken with Fever yesterday

27 Cloudy verry warm - Bat quit sick since yesterday even- ing, sent for D<sup>r</sup>. Walker at dark.

28 Cloudy warm morning, Went with Miss C Joor to W<sup>m</sup>. J Forts party Last night, great many beautifull Ladys - verry fine party

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<sup>76</sup> T. E. Thorpe, "The Bee Hunter," was a noted character of the region. He was a writer, newspaper editor, artist, photagraph- er, and sportsman. For a sketch of Thorpe, see Evert A. Duyck- inck and George L. Duyckinck, Cyclopedia of American Literature, 2 vols. (New York, 1856), Vol. 2, pp. 612-615.

29 Clear cold Wind from the West. Want rain verry much, ground verry hard & dry - son Bat better. Moulded some cotten yesterday one furrow, Fire Verry comfortable to day, several gentleman here to day, much amused at James Flowers open confessions of Love, &c.

30 Clear quit cold Last night & this morning, ploughed piece new ground corn - never saw ground scrape as bad, Verry hard & dry, Verry bad stand in Pen rice bottom, soaking seed to replant it, 15 ploughs running since dinner

May 1 Clear Verry night & morning sun verry hot plough hands replanting Penrice bottom

2 Clear cool morning, Sun verry hot, never saw the ground harder & as dry - every thing suffering for rain

3 Clear pleasant, Hands not worked to please me this morning, scraping cotten to day will take 13 days. Finished Barring off Cotten to night

4 Few clouds. verry warm - Ploughing corn. 50 acres ploughed second time, Capt Chambers of E. Feliciana came up this evening, set for my Portrait

5 Cloudy Verry warm. Appearance of rain, Ploughing corn every other row, from half Leg to knee high, improving, cotten has'ent grown any for some days owing to verry cold nights & wind from the North - Miss Mayhew left for New Orleans this morning. Fine rain of 1/2 an hour, at one Oclock, Finished scraping cotten

6 Damp morning, hoeing corn - Finished ploughing old corn 120 acres, by Breakfast time, 18 ploughs running one furrow round cotten 6 ploughs barring off young corn in bottoms, 14 days & 1/2 scraping Cotten, the hardest work I ever had - Appearance of a rainy day - the Miss Skillmans & Miss Arnold here to day, Verry pleasant day, unco<sup>n</sup> sociable &c. started home this evening, Appearance of rain they turned back.

7 Raining, verry warm, had quit a Lively time of it last night and this morning, started Home with the Ladies after dinner, M<sup>r</sup>. Skilman in my Buggy with Miss C Joor, horse got in the Quick sand, broke one shaft, got out, went on as far as spring Grove with them, have heard often of a handfull of Love, But never saw a Horse stauled by it, before this evening

8 Raining as hard as it ever rained commenceing at day, Light shot an Alligator this morning in the Green Pond,<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> Alligators were common in the swamps of West Feliciana and alligator hunting as a sport was indulged in by many of the local gentry.

Women spinning, Top of small crib blown off last night, stopping Dam in Green pond - .. chopping weeds &c.

9 Raining verry hard. wind North East. Some appearance of Breaking away since 1/2 8 Ok. Raining verry hard since 2 Ok. Corn one Large crib 3/4 full.

10 Cloudy cool East wind, rainy night, ground verry wet, Women spinning. &c. Making pen for Hogs & stable for Jos Bell - All hands making a Dam in Front Lot - for a Fish Pond since Dinner Cleared off since dinner

11 Clear cool morning, all hands hoeing cotton. scraping Wherever they find Grass, too wet to hill or plough - Never felt a more pleasant day

12 Clear Verry pleasant morning hoeing corn, 20 ploughs moulding cotton one furrow.

13 Clear Verry Warm, Returned from Mr Skillmens this morning with Caroline & John Joor Quit a Frollice yesterday & last night. Finished hoeing corn by dinner second time, hilling cotton, corn from knee to hip high Looking Well, Cotton from 6 to 12 inches high Saw one Limb & two forms or shapes - Verry warm evening, sudden change in the wind since Sun down cool from the North

14 Clear Verry pleasant, Went to Town attended church. a day set aside by President Tyler as a day of Prayer for the Death of Genl. Harrison Pres<sup>t</sup>

15 Clear verry cold morning. 8 or 10 Gentleman Came home with me yesterday & several Ladies had quit a Frollic Went hunting to day - no Luck

16 Clear cold night & morning, A. G. B & Family here & Miss Swift, &c. & several others

17 Clear Verry pleasant, Eliza & William here to day. Son Bat sick, Finished Breaking out middles of Race track field, Barring off piece corn at Gibson place - replanting corn in bottom. never have been so troubled with stand of corn

18 Clear Verry pleasant. Moulding cotton G<sup>n</sup> place. Quit unwell Last night. Received a Letter signed Alexander Brunton Post marked Canada I am certain it is from a negro that ran away Ruffin & myself in 1835 nearly White. We owned but a few days, sent him to New Orleans to have him sold, never heard of him since, Writes that he will return if money is sent him &c. <sup>78</sup> Cotton Looks Well, where is not Bug Eaten, forming Went to Ruffins

78 As far as it is known Barrow did not send Post the requested ~~post~~.

19 Clear Verry pleasant, Went driving started number of Deer no Luck

20 Clear warm summer morning Robt. Semple & E. Skillman with me last night. Joseph Joor came from Jackson yesterday, Will graduate 2<sup>d</sup> of next month, Finished running round Cotten one furrow 4 0<sup>k</sup>. & 80 Acres broke out middles ploughing young corn

21 Cloudy Verry warm, cotten Looks well, "Excepting Last planting." Penrice bottom and old Land below ground dry, cotten 1<sup>st</sup> planting from 10 inches to 18 inches high. corn Looks well. "Excepting the bottoms" from hip to shoulder high, coons still troubling corn in the bottoms, several sick or pretending J. Richardson sent me 3 Beautifull hound pups. gave one to Robt. Semple Drew the sein to day to get Fish to put in the Green Pond

22 Cloudy Verry warm

23 Cloudy warm, Hilling cotten old Land below, the only inferior cotten I have young cotten, ran four furrows in old land below, Verry hot day

24 Cloudy morning Verry pleasant.

25 Cloudy morning verry pleasant Went to Town

26 Clear Verry warm, Breaking out middles above, two thirds of my crop verry fine, Finished Hilling Cotten, scraping Potatoes

27 Cloudy warm - Hoeing bottom corn verry inferior & grassy. M<sup>d</sup> Flour here this morning.

28 Clear pleasant Morning, Went to Town, fine rain Town yesterday, hoeing Cotten third time

29 Clear warm, Negros Holliday never saw negros hoe as slow as they do on Robt. H. B place - Mrs Joor & Mrs Haile came down to day

30 Few clouds, verry warm & sultry Light shower at noon, Went over to M<sup>r</sup> Skillman's

31 Clear pleasant morning, Went to Town. Light shower ploughing corn third time & every other row. Looks verry well

June 1 Clear verry warm - putting seed around some corn - Left Home this evening for Jackson Mrs Joor, Mrs Haile Caroline Joor Mrs Skillman & two Daughters & several gentlemen, to attend the Exebition. Joseph Joor graduated, he delivered the valedictory



4 Clear verry warm returned from Jackson yesterday, <sup>79</sup> had quit a Frollic. Verry Large Party, A verry sociable time their going & returning &c. As usual however the D--- Preachers intefered as much as possible, attempting to draw numbers from the Party by having preaching at night

5 Clear verry warm

6 Clear verry warm Sent for me to go to Ruffins Boy Henry threatning to runaway, &c.

7 Clear verry warm, Went over to Robt. H. B place this morning verry early Overseer not in the field. grassy crop &c. My crop verry fine, in fact as good as can well be & in fine order. from 10 inches to over knee high. corn from head to 8 feet high looks well - ground verry dry - some of Ruffins negros turned his boy Henry out of Jail - cotten Bluming well

8 Clear verry warm - Went over to Flower<sup>s</sup> yesterday in Company of J Joor, found a verry Lively company of young Lawers. All musicians, invited them all to my House & have never seen just such a Frollic. such singing & noise & happiness perfectly indifferent to the cares of this world. they were Mr Marks, Hyatt, Bowman J. Flower Theur Jos Joor, M<sup>c</sup>Crindle W. Stirling & D<sup>r</sup> Walker

9 Clear Verry warm morning, hoeing young corn at G<sup>ns</sup>. ploughing corn every other row, hoed cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time above hoeing G<sup>ns</sup>. never had a more regular crop. first rate stand, looks remarkably well, some of my hands are getting quit out of Gear, having so much Company Lately, been unable to attend to them strictly

10 Clear warm morning, rain above yesterday, Mrs Joor & Mrs Haile Left on the 9. took Caroline Home with them Light shower at noon - ground verry dry

11 Morning Clear and verry Hot. hoeing piece young corn this side of Little creek. uncom'on fine crop both corn & cotten, Excepting Penrice field, rain prevented my planting When the rest of the crop was, ploughing old Land cotten every other row, four furrows & scrapers in the middle

12 Cloudy Hot - Negros Holliday several sick, son John sick.

13 Clear verry warm Cloudy warm morning, one Large crib nearly two 3<sup>ds</sup> full of corn

- 14 Cloudy warm went to Town rain in Town.
- 15 Cloudy warm - running four furrows & scrapers in Every other row, Finished hoeing cotton 3<sup>d</sup> time by 4 Ok. could have finished Last week. hilling piece back of Quarter 3<sup>d</sup> time, shall stop hoes to night 'till it rains.
- 16 Left Home this morning with Family for Woodville.
- 20 Returned Home this evening
- 21 Cloudy Verry Hot, Light shower during my absence fine rains above & below, My corn wants rain verry much - Cotton verry fine. excepting Penrice bottom young cotton well formed - the rest of the crop from knee to hip high, well bolled & branched & formed, com<sup>d</sup>ed hoeing again this morning few bunches pusly cotton wants thining &c. Light shower at Eleven Ok<sup>n</sup>
- 22 Cloudy verry warm hoeing cotton above 4<sup>th</sup>. time, chopping bunches pusly - Women only
- 23 Foggy damp morning Fine cotton rain on part of plantation yesterday, Went through the District yesterday. hard rains below, went to Town
- 24 Clear cool morning, Last night quit cold, Feels like Sept. weather, Aunt Bat Mrs A. Barrow Rosalie & Amanda here to day, Amanda seems to be verry fond of fun & mischief Rosalie verry sedate &c. hoe hands Little or nothing to do Will put the women to spinning in the morning, Corn Verry much in want of rain Cotton verry fine, Excepting small piece old Land below & Penrice bottom, small & wants rain, half Large crib of corn only
- 25 Clear pleasant morning. Last night verry cool, ploughing Gibson place, great many Boles on cotton 3 & 4 nearly grown. Women spinning men getting out timber making cypress fence. covering cribs &c.
- 27 Clear cool mornings & night Returned home last night, Went up to C. Davis day before yesterday, Went yesterday above Tunica 5 miles - fishing Caught great many.<sup>80</sup>
- 28 Clear cool morning & night, hoeing new ground. Looks verry well considering the Drouth, seven weeks since it rained over the plan<sup>n</sup> ploughing young corn at Gibson place. old Land Corn nearly gone, Cotton wants rain
- 29 Cloudy warm, went to Town jno. Mayrant with me, Ap-

pearance of rain. Miss Swifts Came up this evening, sprinkle rain &c.

30 Rainey morning. Verry hard rain in the night, Cotten Looks verry fine. water broke the Dam in lot wash

July 1 Cloudy Damp morning, cutting coal wood women spinning

2 Clear Verry warm - Send all hands to hoe for the Miss Swifts, small boys ploughing for peas, fearfull Peas will not come up in corn field, ground so baked, the rain that fell two nights must of been as hard as ever fell, rained but few hours ground too wet to plough to day in . . . old Land

3 Cloudy Verry Warm, Went drawing the sein Fish fry &c. verry pleasant time &c. returning over took Turnbulls negros returning from Town, one fellow gave me some impudence, put his head under the fence, & gave him a good Whipping, the waggon came along searched it & found over ten gallons of Whiskey in it, a general breaking of Jugs took place - Towles Percey<sup>s</sup> & other along

4 Cloudy verry warm

5 Cloudy Verry warm, hoeing Gibson place - ploughing every other row old Land above, Cotten growing verry well Corn improved verry much - making Baskets

6 Cloudy damp & warm, sprinkle rain after dard last evening, never saw a better crop of cotten from knee to head high filled with Boles & Forms, Corn improved verry much, new ground, as good as I ever had, went to Town

7 Clear verry warm - Several sick

8 Clear verry Hot - Went hunting & never suffered more with heat. uncommon warm - rain below

9 Clear verry warm hands from Alfred report have worked badly for two days past, James Flower here last night, to be married to C. B. Joor 15 this month

10 Clear verry warm - Went to Town back to dinner. M<sup>r</sup> Thorp with me. Went to A. G. Howells this evening a Fish Fry there to day have'nt seen as drunken a set in a great While &c. rain on Lower Edge plant<sup>n</sup> Light

11 Clear verry warm

12 Clear verry warm, Several sick Verry tedious hoeing, Cotten 1<sup>st</sup> planting from half thigh to shoulder high 2<sup>d</sup> from knee to waist high, Verry fine all of it, cotten & corn both want rain. sprinkle rain.

13 Clear Verry warm, hoeing old Land above.

14 Clear Verry warm. S Flower & Jno. Joor here last night. 6 sick. hands appear to get over ground slower than I ever saw them, fine grass & Tie vines verry thick

17 Clear verry warm Returned from Woodville this morning, Caroline B. Joor was Married on 15<sup>th</sup> to James Flower jun, Received a note from Ruffin stating that several of my negros were implicated in an intended insurrection on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August next. it seems from What he writes me, it was to have taken place Last March - mine are O Fill O Ben Jack Dennis & Demps - will go up to Robert J. B to have them examined &c. six negros were found guilty in the first degree, it appears they were to meet at jno. Towles Gate and at Mr. Turnbulls inheritance place, Leaders one of Robert J. Barrow one Bennet J. B. one of Towles one of C. Perceys one W. J. Forts & one of D. Turnbulls, none of mine were implicated farther than one of Robert J. B boys said he heard the names of the above mentioned &c. intend having an examination of the Whole plantation & the neighbourhood &c.<sup>81</sup>

18 Clear Verry warm

19 Clear Verry Hot - Examined Mrs Stirlings negros Courtneys & my onw yesterday found none of them concerned in the Expected insurrection, Went to Judge Wades this morning, found several of his men concerned it. Dave Bonner the most & he was the Leder, Sent to Jail for trial

20 Clear Verry warm. Thermometer Lower this morning than it has been in 3 weeks, fine shower

21 Cloudy Verry warm - Examined Robt. H. Barrows negros yesterday. one or two deeply concerned. Sit last night for negros on the road, good many runaways about.

22 Clear Verry warm, Examined Ruffins negros yesterday they pretended more ignorance than any negros I've met with - one of his Old Pete deeply concerned - &c.

23 Clear verry warm - Examined A. Barrows & Mrs Joor<sup>8</sup> negros could<sup>ent</sup> find out any thing of importance, Cotten shedding Forms small bolle & Leaves for want of rain Finished hoeing all plantation since it rained & ploughing last Tuesday

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<sup>81</sup> Slave insurrections were uncommon in the ante-bellum South. The only actual outbreak of importance in this section of the South occurred near Natchez during the War for Southern Independence. Mrs. L. P. Connor, Natchez, Mississippi, has in her possession some interesting records concerning this insurrection.

morning Cleaning out scaffold yards making scaffolds - more sickness than I've had this year - daughter Caroline little sick

24 Clear pleasant Breeze from the North, Examined negroes of A. G. Barrow Miss Swifts Jos. Smithes & Capt Howells &c. never saw cotton suffering as much for rain as at present.

25 Clear Verry Warm. dry wind from the North, rain below.

26 Clear verry warm - Pulling Fodder. trash Gang picking Cotton, Caroline quit sick this morning. Verry hard at one oclock. lasted over two hours, never saw more water on the ground

27 Cloudy. Verry warm, Negroes all Cleared. But will be tried by the Planters themselves &c. Working roads women spinning, making scaffolds &c.

28 Clear verry warm - Rece<sup>d</sup> a Letter from the Committee on Perceys creek requesting information in regard to the negroes rising Excitement &c. pulling Fodder, running scrapers twicet in a row next to the cotton

29 Clear Verry Hot night & morning Pulling fodder, several sick, daughter Caroline well &c.

30 Hazy morning, Last night Hot as I ever felt it. Never saw a crop throughout Bolled as my crop is at this time. smaller than usual, opening verry fast, several sick. sprinkle rain

31 Cloudy Verry damp, great deal of Lightning last evening, light rain "at dark" - Working road to Gibson place

August 1 Cool pleasant morning. Old Mr Brewer with me last night. I went to school to him 20 year ago. &c. Robt. J. B. & family here to day

2 Clear verry cold morning & night, 16 hands picking before the scrapers, hoeing Wet bottoms. fine grass & tie vines verry thick several children quit sick

3 Clear verry cold morning, B. S. Joor came down this morning Women & children picking cotton few men - others making scaffolds scraping &c. Never saw Cotton fall of more than it has done in the 3 weeks past. old Land shed all its forms appears done growing. opening verry fast. Verry small half Leg to half thigh high, new ground above barely hip high, Gibson place verry good, Grass worms Eating Cotton as well as grass, saved 17 Large stacks of Fodder 60 acres young corn to pull - W. Joor came down this morning.

4 Clear cool morning. 7 or 8 sick 100 picked by dinner

in new Land. getting pickets for scaffolds.

5 Clear pleasant, morning cool.

6 Clear pleasant morning, running scrapers above - other hands picking cotton

7 Cloudy warm. Last night quit hot - sent to Town for my Bagging & cordage. India Bagging, Kentucky rope. 26 & 15 1/2 <sup>lb</sup> Picking cotton Gibson place, hands picked verry well number of hands picked over 220 <sup>lbs</sup>

8 Few clouds, warm wind from the South, Son Bat ran a Large needle in his foot nearly up to the eye of it. no blood came from it Several Sick

9 Cloudy warm Went to Town hard rain & wind in Town & this side. Light sprinkle here

10 Cloudy warm, Son Bat quit high Fever last night uneasy fearing the Lock Jaw. several sick, Appearance of hard rain above

11 Cloudy pleasant wind from North. over 25 Bales out. Hands picked finely. avreaged 203 Never heard of such picking at this season of the year, sent cart on the road - Cloudy cool & pleasant wind from the North - Hands Avreaged 203 <sup>lbs</sup> yesterday. Finished scraping yesterday, All hands picking except those on the roade - 49 picking, Never have seen crops as well Bolled as they are this season, my Cotton is bending down with grown bolles, though smaller than I ever saw it, Most of Gibson place & part Penrice bottom usual size

12 Clear Verry pleasant morning, hands picking extremely well Av<sup>d</sup>. yesterday 193. sucklers now in bad Cotton or would have Av<sup>d</sup> considerable over two hundred

13 Clear cool morning. all hands on the road. hard work

14 Clear morn night quit cool - Son John & Clifford sick - several negros quit sick yesterday

15 Clear pleasant morning, Finished working the road yesterday, our District Attorney, (W. D. Boyle) made a begginng towards enforcing the Law, in removing free negros from the Parish, came to old Grey<sup>s</sup> family, saw the Law in a different Light, no doubt Bribe<sup>d</sup> - &c.<sup>82</sup>

16 Cloudy warm - Several of my negros in returning off of the road Saturday night came through Ruffins Quarter. he hav-

ing the measles forbid their Returning that way. had them staked down all yesterday, several of them had killed a hog, found out the right ones. gave them all a severe Whipping, Ginney Jerry has been sharking about ever since Began to pick cotton. after Whipping him yesterday told him if ever he dodge about from me again would certainly shoot him. this morning at Breakfast time Charles came & told me that Jerry was about to run off. took my Gun found him in the Bayou behind the Quarter, shot him in his thigh - &c. raining all around

17 Cloudy verry warm, hands picked well yesterday. Av<sup>d</sup><sub>n</sub> 203 1/2, 60 picking. none at the scaffold, hard rain in sight. ground here verry hot to the negros feet

18 Clear pleasant morning, Hands Av<sup>d</sup><sub>n</sub> verry high yesterday, 246. picked at Gibson place - Caroline Came down this morning Light rain

19 Cloudy verry warm, hands would have av<sup>d</sup><sub>n</sub> over 250 had it not of rained - as hard a rain as could or ever fall fell this evening, great many sick, Mr. Thuer horse ran off with his sulkey yesterday in the Lot. Broke it &c.

20 Clear verry warm, Light shower at noon - picking cotton since Eleven o'f

21 Cloudy warm morning. threatning rain, Light shower.

22 Cloudy verry warm, Ruffin sent for me yesterday evening to assist him to Look for two runaways seen near the Russel place, Left his House after dark just as we got to the Russel creek we started through the woods Came to a thicket, dismounted, tied our Horses, and just as I started off, put my Gun over some Vines. in stepping over them (Both Cocks of the Gun down) put my foot on one cock & off went. knocking me some feet & senseless, the Whole Load struck me just above the right year, cutting the skin to the top of the skull, went between my hat & head & Tearing the Hat at the side & made a hole through the top of it one inch from the edge of the crown - No one can imagin the pain & feelings I had on recovering from the shock, being dark as pitch & in the woods & away from any assistance, half an inch Lower & it would have blown my skull to atoms, My hat I'll keep as remembrance of the narrowest escape I ever knew. And all owing to having the Cocks down on the caps instead of half cock, a thing I never done before, did so owing to the dampness of the night air, Ruffins distressed feelings I can never forget nor the sympathetic feelings of Cousin Olivia & nieces, Will ever be remembered by me. it is the sufferer alone that can appreciate such kindness, and What can be more gratfull to my feelings, &c. shower rain to day. over 75 Bales out Last night, 32 Pressed - great deal of Cotton open rain has made it bad picking and verry trashy & dirty

23 Dark cloudy morning cool wind from the East raining

7 Oclock. Appearance of ba spell of Weather Recev<sup>d</sup> one of my Gins from South Carolina

24 Damp Foggy morning

25 Damp Foggy morning. raining since Dinner

26 Rainey morning, started one of my Boatright Gins, verry much pleased with it, appears to Gin verry fast

27 Damp Foggy & warm & sultry morning<sup>s</sup> for week past, Grass about taking the plantation, had this spell of weather been in July or 1<sup>st</sup> this month would have made over 600 Bales, I have great deal open & now verry much injured - Few of my men Picking Badly, Randal L. Dave L. Tom Wash Jim T. Frank B. Tom. Women Candis & Creasy. still Cloudy and appearance of unsettled Weather

28 Cloudy warm, hands picked verry well yesterday. Considering how the rains have torn the cotten, Eighty Five Bales out, at Least Ninety out to night. great deal of rain fallen to day. Grass (about taking the plantation), "And tie vines"

29 Raining - House damp and verry disagreeable - Verry warm

30 Clear pleasant morning. Several Sick, Appearance of verry hard rain in the East, since dinner

31 Clear verry pleasant morning, Sun rose clear, Cloudy at seven oclock. Light sprinkle rain 1 O<sup>k</sup>

September 1 Few clouds pleasant morning - Last night verry warm, Between 105 & 120 Bales out Last night. Cotten falling off verry much taken second growth, great many places rust has taken evry Leaf off. Bolles opening only half grown, Light rain since dinner, Commenced Hawling cotten to the river 1<sup>st</sup> shipment

2 Damp Foggy morning, Pressing at Gibson<sup>s</sup> Cotten picked this week, verry dirty & trashy & stained

3 Damp cloudy & Foggy morning, Verry warm day.

4 Cloudy Verry warm morning.

5 Foggy Few clouds, one hundred Bales Gined 77 Pressed Last night, one hundred & thirty five Beles out in N<sup>o</sup> Last night - (or more)

6 Cloudy cool wind from the East. Appearance of bad spels of weather. Cotten rotting. old fashion rot

7 Cleared off Since day light, rained all yesterday, Wind



from the East, Hawled 53 Bales to Rat<sup>S</sup> Landing, Rain at Eleven & 2 o<sup>k</sup>

8 Dark Foggy & warm morning. hoed yesterday evening, never saw cotten rot as it has done in the ten days past, similar to rot 15 year ago. should it prove to be the same, Can't imagine What we will do, nearly evry one is in debt to a Large am<sup>t</sup>. would sell my Land if I could, & move on the Low Lands Mississipp<sup>i</sup> or some of its tributaries, shiped 53 Bales

9 Clear, Foggy morning. Picking cotten at Gibson place, never saw as fine Gins as the two I rec<sup>d</sup>. this fall from Carolina "Boatrights"

10 Few clouds, verry warm - killed a fine Deer in my field yesterday. the crack of the Gun still Jars my head - Raining verry hard during the day.

11 Cloudy cool & Damp morning, the crop of cotten must be very short the dry summer & now the wet weather & rot. &c. several children sick, Making dam across the wash in the front Lot - hard rain at dark

12 Cloudy damp & cool morning

13 Clear cool & pleasant morning, Much the coolest and only fall Looking day we've had yet - over one hundred & Fifty Bales out Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> But for the unco<sup>n</sup> bad weather would have had out 220, 131 Pressed. 138 Gined - will be short crops made as far as I can Learn are better in this neighbourhood, than within 30 miles, Went to Town &c.

14 Clear cold morning, voted yesterday for Richard Haile for Representative to Legislature - number sick, Cotten still on the declin, in price here & in Eoruope

15 Cloudy Damp, wind from the East. Verry hard rain yesterday evening from the East, repairing Dam in the Lot. several sick

16 Cloudy cold wind from the North, Ginney Jerry ran off Last Thursday to day week, after being shot, Will shoot to kill him should I be fortunate enoughf to meet him, Will sell him &c. Never saw a crop so completely used up by Tie vines & Grass, evry rich spot hid by them & cotten all rotten, picking the cotten as trashy as can be, intend stopping Gins to night, all hands to picking, unless I do must loose an immense quaintity, one hundred & 75 Bales out Last night in N<sup>o</sup> 139 Pressed 155 Gined, Number of sick ones.

17 Few clouds Quit cold - Went up Last night to see Francis Wade married to Robert Semple - a widower with two children, verry fine man &c. Mrs Frazier (Mrs. Woodward that was)

came down from Woodville this Evening

18 Clear morning quit cold

19 Few clouds much warmer, One Hundred & Ninety Bales out in N<sup>o</sup>. Sent down after an Ox waggon - Came verry near a rain to day - Went over to Ruffins, he Looks worse than I ever saw him unwell for some weeks Fistulo. Old Aunt Polly died on the 9<sup>th</sup>

20 Clear pleasant - hands Picking Badly. I think for such trashy cotten as they pick, though it is rotten & great many tie Vines to pull.

21 Cloudy pleasant, Reced. Acct sales of my 1<sup>st</sup> Shipment 53 Bales good cotten at 10<sup>c</sup> still falling though prospects for a verry short crop. shower at 10 O<sup>k</sup>, rainy evening quit cold

22 Verry cold Wind from the North Misty rain, Women spinning men trashing cotten, out all last night in the rain sitting at G. Jerrys Camp suffered verry much from cold wet &c. part of the time in the hollow tree &c.

23 Cleared off Late yesterday evening, morning Foggy cool - several sick cloudy & cold East wind since 10 O<sup>k</sup>.

24 Clear cool but pleasant, great Many Sick went to Town, Rece<sup>d</sup>. the second Veto of President Tyler, news by Last mail that there would be war with England, great riot at Cincinnati, Whites & negros, a negro cut a White boy verry badly with provocation. Several Whites killed, a few think it will put a stop to their Abolition notions, they say by Proclomation that they will not harbour any more runaways &c.

25 Clear verry pleasant, Lewis & Dan Stirling hunting with me to day. Fox hunting started number of Deer. &c.

26 Few clouds, pleasant morning, several sick, Mrs W. Haile came down yesterday. Pernell Boys caught my runaway "Ginney Jerry" Last Thursday.

27 Morning verry Foggy. Little Lucey died yesterday afternoon, dropsy of the chest. 49 years old - Between 220 & 230 Bales out in N<sup>o</sup>. one hundred & 72 Pressed in N<sup>o</sup>. Verry warm day

28 Cloudy verry warm - several sick, Light rain at 3 O<sup>k</sup> appearance of heavy rain above & below &c.

29 Cloudy Damp & cool - Finished picking my worst cotten. picked higher yesterday than for two weeks. and cleaner cotten. went hunting in my Buggy - killed two Deer

30 Cloudy cool Wind from the North, I have been quit unwell for some weeks unable to ride on horseback without great pain &c.

October 1 Clear cool & pleasant day. "sick" 10 or 12 - or pretending to be, 205 B. Gined 250 out in N<sup>O</sup>. Between 260 & 75 of 400 lbs. 189 Pressed

2 Clear cool morning, but pleasant. More hands attempting to sherk for two weeks past than I ever knew, Gave a number of them a good flogging, Turning Quit cold. hard wind from the North & cloudy

5 Few clouds wind verry cold. Wind East since 10 O<sup>k</sup>

4 Cloudy in the East cold & windy

6 Clear verry pleasant day - went to Town Verry dusty

7 Shower rain at Sun rise Verry hot.

8 Sprinkle rain this morning verry warm, hard shower at 3 O<sup>k</sup>

9 Cloudy verry warm - Three hundred Bales out to night in Number. 229 Pressed - in N<sup>O</sup>. 245 or 50 Gined Jno. Mayrant here for some days past. Suited him in Winter Clothes - deserves no pity yet one cannot help it

10 Cloudy rain since Breakfast - Went Driving at day Break no luck

11 Cloudy Verry warm, Wind East, rain at 4 O. picking well av<sup>d</sup> 201.

12 Cloudy damp morning hard shower rain at 2 O<sup>k</sup> Mrs Flower over this morning

13 Cloudy cool wind from the North, sold 43 Bales at 10<sup>C</sup> 11 at 8 1/2<sup>C</sup> shiped to day (in all) 191 Bales, Appearance of clearing off

14 Few clouds in the East quit cool

15 Cloudy summer day - verry warm Wind East, Went to Town yesterday near Town the shaffs of my Buggy came loose being a very gentle horse (going down hill) or would have ran off, in jumping out sprained my Ancle hurt verry Bad

16 Cloudy warm - Picking cotten old Land above. old Land has turned out better this year than it ever did, new Land rotted, but for that would have made over 600 Bales. several sick, cleared off Like summer

17 Clear verry pleasant day - Three hundred and Thirty Bales out in number Last night 263 Pressed to night in No. 280 Gined in No. Will make over 350 out of 400 16 out - My Teacher came Last night from New York - Mr. Hulbert<sup>83</sup>

18 Clear verry pleasant

19 Clear verry pleasant - Pulled some corn Pine this side Little creek, Colts had et it nearly up

20 Clear verry pleasant - Picking verry trashy cotten - verry dry & Light

21 Clear, cool Wind from the North

22 Clear, verry cold wind from the North Frost in the bottoms, wind blowing prevented a White Frost

23 Clear verry cold morning - Ice this morning

24 Clear verry cold - White Frost

25 Clear verry cold - White Frost

26 Clear verry cold - White Frost

27 Clear pleasant - Jno. Mayrant & myself Went in the swamp yesterday, at Mr. Demorse on foot. went across to Bear Bayou swamp perfectly dry. started several Deer, Walked about 8 Mile, hands picking verry Light weights & trashy

28 Clear pleasant - Went to Ruffins with Mr. Collier of Tennessee - Digging Potatoes, Large "but few."

29 Warm Foggy morning, made verry few Potatoes 16 hills - Four hundred & 5 Bales out in No. 337 Gined

30 Raining verry hard & warm, between Four hundred And thir-ty five & 450 Bales out of 400 16 at Least, About 30 to pick

31 Verry stormy Looking day. Wind from the East. Verry warm, Emily taking chronic inflamation of the stomach, several children sick

November 1 Clear pleasant day. More Like spring than Nov-ember Gathering corn

2 Clear Verry pleasant, Clear verry pleasant, more Like spring than Fall, great deal of cotten knocked out by the test

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<sup>83</sup> Hulbert was evidently a good teacher, as he remained at Highland several years.

rain

3 Clear verry pleasant - Mrs Flower over to day. her & Jim are as Loving as two kittens, told her how disgusting it appeared made her quite mad

4 Clear verry pleasant, Mrs Flower left here quit out of sorts to day

5 Clear cold morning - nearly Finished Picking cotten gathered corn in the Bayou yesterday

6 Clear verry pleasant

7 Few clouds wind South, pleasant - Ruffin & several from this neighbourhood intended going up to red river for a Deer hunt, disappointed William ran his S<sup>t</sup> Boat aground, Bought one for the purpose of pleasure trips hunting &c.<sup>84</sup>

8 Cloudy warm, went to Town sprinkle rain in the evening, gathering corn to day

9 Cloudy summer day - James and John Began to shoot. quit pleased, & shoot well for Beginners, 341 Bales Pressed in No.

10 Cloudy verry warm, went driving Killed fine Deer. Miss M. Swift & A G Barrow here to day.

11 Few clouds, spring day - Finished gathering corn yesterday

12 Rain at day Light, "Light"

13 Cleared off verry pleasant "wind North"

14 Clear verry pleasant. wind North

15 Clear quit cold morning, Made one Large & one small crib full of corn - one Large one nearly even to the plate. went to Town, Bought a pair of Dove coloured carraige horses Very fine Horses. perfect match, \$400

16 Cloudy cold - went over to see Ruffins & Williams Steam Boat, Went off on a hunting trip

17 Cleare verry pleasant

18 Few clouds, summer day, Waggon & cart hawling Pumpkins.

19 Rain at day Light, cleared off verry warm & windy

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<sup>84</sup> For a description of the "Nimrod," see Spirit of the Times, Sept. 11, 1841.

20 Cloudy verry warm, Wind South evry thing Budding out

21 Cloudy verry warm, threatning rain. several showers to day

22 Heavy rain Last night. clear Beautifull spring day, working on Dam in front Lot.

23 Clear verry pleasant, All men clearing Land, women & children picking cotten about 5 Bales to pick. 404 Bales Pressed in N<sup>o</sup>

24 Cloudy verry warm. hard rain Last night

25 Cleared off cool & pleasant. hard rain Last night

26 Clear verry cold wind from the North - B. S. Joor came down yesterday

27 Clear cold. White frost. Finished picking cotten yesterday

28 Few clouds. Verry cold day.

29 Clear verry cold, ground frozen & White, Yesterday just as we were sitting to dinner, the House was discovered to be on fire sparks from from Little room chimney caught the roof. burnt through the shingles. few minutes more and doubtfull if it could have been stoped &c.

30 Real freezing weather

December 1 Cloudy verry cold East wind all hands cleaning up brush in new clearing 425 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup>.

2 Raining hard since midnight East wind

3 Foggy morning, cleared off warm

4 Clear Verry pleasant

5 Clear cold morning

6 Clear cold morning, Took a List of things the negros wanted, yesterday<sup>85</sup>

7 Clear morning White frost. Cloudy since 10 O<sup>k</sup> - & warm

8 Cloudy pleasant, Finished clearing Brush of off new

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85 Barrow usually purchased the articles wanted by the negroes and distributed them at Christmas Time.

ground - men chopping Logs. some sawing for Houses, Women spinning, Finish Ginning to day

9 Cloudy verry warm, several showers during the morning, stoped the Gin few Bales to Gin only.

10 rain at day Light, cleared off. summer day, Ralph cut his Big Toe & one next to it off with an ax, M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Flower here to day. W<sup>m</sup> H. B came from the Island to day. Verry much pleased with his purchase. &c.

19 Returned Home from New Orleans this evening, Verry pleasant trip, Verry warm day

20 Cloudy Verry warm, D<sup>r</sup> Lawrence of Red river here, to be married to Miss Josaphine Johnson on the 30. &c.

21 Cloudy Verry warm, Went to a party at M<sup>r</sup> Barrow's Last night in Town - verry pleasant

22 Clear Verry cold day, Light rain Last night, rollin Logs in new ground since Last Saturday, Making up pants for men as Christmast present.

23 Clear cool wind from North

24 Cloudy verry cold freezing day

25 few clouds verry cold East wind & North East. &c.

26 Cloudy verry cold, & disagreeable gave the negros articles purchased for them in N. Orleans - "yesterday" raining since 12 O<sup>k</sup>

27 Raining all Last night, appearance of continueing. & quit cold, wind from the East.

28 Cloudy cold & Damp

29 Raining hard since day Break

30 Cloudy cold went to Town verry muddy.

31 Few clouds in the East. cold

1842

January 1 Hailing at day Light. Cold, the Last year has closed, and a new one Begun. And every thing wearing the same distressed appearance of the four past. one difference only provisions are Low. Cotten down to nothing, and Dull. owing to the unsettled state of the Money Market, some few Banks having resumed specie payments - supposed the Legislature will force a general resumption on all that are able, these otherwise to close. the injurious Effects of Banking among a planting Community, are now seriously felt. the cry from one End of the Country to the other is sell, & at almost any price, A few months "provided the Legislature does it duty," will put everything on a sure footing. restore confidence in a great measure - though a great many must Loose nearly evry thing, Hoping for the Best I Begin on Monday morning next with renewed Energy - determined to out do the Best

2 Raining this morning. & since yesterday 4 Ok Cleared off this evening Like spring & pleasant

3 Clear "Beautifull" & pleasant day Began work to day, negros appear Lively & well. &c.

4 Few clouds verry pleasant day, B. S. Joor Came down yesterday

5 Cloudy pleasant

6 Cloudy warm. sprinkle of rain put more dirt on the dam

7 Cloudy Verry warm, Went over to Ruffins this morning in my Cab. While there, Amanda & Miss Crab of Tennessee jumped in it & off they went without Bonnets. supposing them hid search was made evry Where, one hour or more they were seen returning from the swamp, I got in turned the cab & drove them as they were over to Mrs Wades - after being there some time, Who should come But Roberts wife & Rosalie - after us in another Cab (without Bonnets,) remained at Cousin Olives few minutes. took Betsy Ratliff & Miss Laura Wade - Betsy in the Cab with Rosalie & Mary (& John Ruffins son) Miss Wade, Miss Carab, Amand, & myself in my Cab. only two seats in each Cab, Went



on to Bennets found no one at Home, Came on to my House to dinner, sent & collected the neighbours. A. G. Barrow & family Miss Swifts Flower & family Miss Mary Barrow Miss Sophia Johnson Mrs Collins 12 or 13 gentleman - danced all night by the Piano & Violin

8 Would not Let any Leave - got a violin player from Town "Norman" Let them rest & knap during the day some times. playing smut - at dark began to dance, at 12 Oclock their consciences made them refuse to dance any Longer, it Being Saturday night, to punish them fastened the doors 'till near two O<sup>k</sup> some blew the Lights out others tried to get out at the windows, Any thing, but dance they would'ent, retired at 2 Ok all nearly broke down, never have seen A collection so sudden and so perfectly free easy & happy for two days & nights, All restraint thrown aside never enjoyed myself as much

9 Many Long & weary Looking faces sore feet &c. this morning, however all regretting it was Sunday, none more than myself, without preparation it Began, plenty to Eat & drink is all they wanted, evry thing put down & each one helped himself When he wanted it, Cloudy spring day

10 Rainey at 7 O. wind North, turning quit cool

11 Cloudy quit cold - stopping washers some spinning others rolling Logs

12 Cloudy cold

13 Clear verry cold morning.

14 Drizzling rain, splitting rails stopping washes. cutting briars & spinning

15 Cloudy cold

16 Clear cold

17 Clear verry cold night & morning

18 Clear cold morning, Went to Robt. J. B yesterday found quit sick. chronic inflamation of the stomach, Making fences &c.

19 Cloudy light sprinkle rain, warm Ploughing. 12 ploughs - raining verry hard since 4 Ok

20 Clear verry cold & wind blowing verry hard Com<sup>d</sup> ploughing yesterday 12 ploughs, "new ground"

21 Clear cold Bracing day

- 22 Clear cold morning. pleasant day
- 23 Clear cool morning
- 24 Cloudy cool East wind, ploughing up Potatoe ground -  
15 Ploughs
- 25 Raining, wind East.
- 26 Cloudy cool wind from N. East, Women spinning, men making fence
- 27 Clear verry pleasant day, repairing fences. sucklers spinning
- 28 Cloudy cool. wind S. East
- 29 Cloudy warm
- 30 Foggy morning. verry warm - started for New Orleans to day, Son Bat taken sick stoped me
- 31 Cloudy verry Hot. Raining since yesterday 3 Oclock - Mrs Joor & Mrs Haile Came down yesterday, I have the nick Bone of a horse painted, "the natural representation of a Priest or Preacher praying," sitting on my chimney place - some folks don't like it, think that a man can't be honest unless a professor of Religion - in other words a church goer, Bah!
- February 1 Cloudy warm, wind East. Began ploughing for Cotten 4 Furrows "since dinner", Women spinning - threatening rain
- 2 Cloudy verry warm, wind East, Light rain Last night, Bad appearance of weather prevents my going to the City to day - raining during the day.
- 3 Never saw more water fall than has fallen this morning. Pond nearly over flown - running round Each end - wind North - Cleared off pleasant
- 4 Clear verry windy, but pleasant
- 5 Clear Frosty morning, verry pleas<sup>t</sup>
- 6 Left Home for New Orleans this morning.
- 11 Com<sup>d</sup> on Large crib of corn & one small one full
- 19 Returned Home from New Orleans this evening, detained there by ill Health of Bennet J. B. expected him to die for several days - Left him out of danger, such times never were seen in this country, a general smash nearly every House in

in the city has failed or will fail - Banks closed & no money. all owing to rascally Legislation, the feelings of the people will force them to rescind their rascally Bill or tear the state house down.<sup>86</sup> Money cannot be had on the best paper for less than 24 pr ct. if at all. Cotton no sales, should these times continue 2 Months great many planters must be broken up - my situation is very critical, & all from assisting What I thought my friends - d--- such - owe no money myself yet have to work 4 years to pay others debts - or sacrifice my Land - Hands not worked well during my absence

20 Clear verry Cold

21 Clear cold night. 22 Ploughs running. Finished above 4 furrows began at Gns

22 Clear cold morning. pleasant day - Mrs Towles here yesterday.

23 Clear delightfull day - running 3 Furrows only in old Land Gns

24 Few clouds verry warm - went Deer hunting over at Rufins. kiled one Deer, never enjoined a hunt more, from Leake description of Arkansas - &c.

25 Cloudy spring day - Boy Riley broke out this morning. Measels I fear - hard shower this morning from the West cleared off pleasant, Breaking out middles "since dinner" for corn ground in Beautifull order

26 Cloudy pleasant.

27 Cloudy Threatning rain

28 Sprinkling rain - warm Commenced planting 26 in new ground - rainy day. "Light."

March 1 Hazy rain - verry warm - Finished breaking out middles for corn - & planted new ground

2 Great deal of rain fallen & still raining

3 Cloudy verry warm some rain

4 Martins Clear verry pleasant. verry hard rain last night, too wet to plough - stopping wash - women spinning, Clearing &c.

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<sup>86</sup> He referred, no doubt, to the Banking Act of 1842, which forced unsound banks into liquidation.

5 Cloudy, summer day

6 Cloudy verry warm, went Deer hunting yesterday, no Luck riding all day - Went over to see Ruffin, he has just returned New Orleans times still worse all buisness stoped most of the Banks going in to Liquidation &c.

7 Cloudy verry warm at day Light. cold wind from North since 8 O<sup>k</sup> Verry cold shower at 3 O<sup>k</sup> - Began to plant corn in old Land, ground rather wet - Trees nearly all put out, till this morning evry thing the appearance of spring - Caroline, John, and Bat. sick

8 Cloudy verry warm - Bat & James Broke out with Measles, two or three house ones with it. Riley Brought it from N. Orleans.

9 Cloudy verry warm. planting Corn in Penrice field since yesterday morning, dropping it 2 feet & 2 1/2 - poor places

10 Cloudy summer day several here hunting. Finished planting corn Except bottoms - 225 acres middles broke out to night.

11 Few clouds verry warm. all my children with measles - never knew a more sudden change in the weather at 1/2 4 O<sup>k</sup> Verry hot & in one minute cold

12 Cloudy quit cold wind from the north - George Joor came down yesterday evening, was verry much in hopes to have rec<sup>d</sup>. \$3000 from him - Endorsing for him

13 Raining & cold at day Light cold mist till 12 O<sup>k</sup>. Clear since & pleasant. Killed several Hogs in field, wild ones

14 Cloudy cold - hard shower rain before day Light

15 Clear cold morning. pleasant from 9 Ok. - Breaking out middles at Gibson place - hoeing new ground corn - Finished running harrows over corn

16 Clear verry pleasant day - Frost this White in the bottoms, Martins made their appearance on the 4<sup>th</sup> since have not seen one

17 Clear verry pleasant spring day. Went driving over at Ruffins Killed several Deer - Fears of an over flow

18 Cloudy some fogg. warm - Finished hoeing new ground corn 1<sup>st</sup> time - old Land not up, the ground in fine order warm - sprouted for 8 days past

19 Clear summer day, Finished breaking middles by Breakfast, All hands repairing their Gardens cleaning up Quarter &c.

20 Clear verry pleasant day

21 Turning cool since day Light Foggy, Began Planting Cotten this morning 8 Ploughs 16 Harrows ridges too high. trying to harrow them down

22 Morning cloudy & cool. clear after 9 Ok. trying harrows behind the ploughs without Teeth to cover cotten. answer finley

23 Cloudy & cool 'till 7 Ok. Clear and pleasant since

24 Cloudy pleasant morning. planted all new Land above & half of Race Track Cut - Jim Bell full Brother to my horse Jos. Bell, has made (last week) in N. Orleans the best race ever run in America. 4 mile Heats 1<sup>st</sup> Heat in 7.37 seconds 2<sup>d</sup> Heat in 7.40 seconds. Beating Sarah Bladen & one other - Sarah Bladen has been at the head of the Turf at the south, Planting Cotten Gibson place

25 Morning cloudy & warm - went hunting in the swamp

26 Cloudy pleasant morning, went hunting. verry pleasant day of it, killed verry Large deer - & never saw a horse act in the manner my Gig horse done in attempting to bring it on would strike at it with both - led up would pitch at it bite as same as a dog - jumped on a dog & perfectly mad - Finished planting Cotten at G.<sup>ns</sup> yesterday Excepting the bottoms, 160 Acres old Land to plant, Seeding corn, verry bad stand in old Land & it looks badly, ploughing new ground corn, verry fine. &c.

27 Cool Foggy morning, heard yesterday that Robert R. Barrow killed a man, his negros had to cross (or more convenient) this man's piece of wood<sup>s</sup> to get to part of his field, the day before this person snaped a Gun at them, next day Robert & his overseer were passing & he snaped at them. Robert took the Gun from his Overseer & shot him. perfectly justifiable & I presume

28 Foggy quit cool morning, ploughing bottoms for corn

29 Clear cold morning - Ruffin has just returned from N. Orleans and says times are still getting worse. no buisness doing. Money as high as 4 pr ct a month, scarce at that - ploughed part of Pond cut of corn - stoped all hands to seed corn. some cotten coming up

30 Cloudy warm, more appearance of rain than for some

weeks - shower at 5 <sup>0k</sup> hard rain in sight

31 Cloudy threatning rain. pleasant. ploughing corn, Finished seeding corn, Cotten in new Land coming up well - hoeing corn in new ground 2<sup>d</sup> time time since Breakfast. turning cool wind East, running one furrow Each side of corn "Bar side", Called to see D<sup>r</sup> Walker this evening seems quit happy with his young wife

April 1 Cloudy cool, Want rain verry much

2 Cloudy warm, went hunting no luck - fine shower upper side plantation, good rain at G<sup>NS</sup> place

3 Cloudy warm Leake Risley & D<sup>r</sup> Walker & Lady staid here Last night. went hunting to day, killed five Deer. ran great many. M<sup>r</sup> Hullbert missed & other Left their stand &c.

4 Cloudy pleasant. Finished ploughing corn 1<sup>st</sup> time by 8 <sup>Ok</sup> - Barring off Cotten since, hoeing corn in Land Looks verry bad. small & bad stand, Measles Broke out in the Quarter 9 cases, Began to rain at 1/2 4 <sup>Ok</sup> fine rain till 1/2 past 5. from the North.

5 Damp Foggy morning. Finishing planting cotten 175 acres to plant

6 Cloudy verry warm - fearfull of a stand of cotten, rain just enoughf to swell the seed, not enoughf moisture to sustain it. &c. Will have to plough up or replant 150 acres. Finished hoeing corn old Land 1<sup>st</sup> time, replanting some cotten

7 Cloudy verry warm, sprinkle rain last night, Planting sweet Potatoes this morning, Fine rain at 4 <sup>Ok</sup>

8 Clear Delightfull morning wind North. Making smaller Potatooe ridges than usual, intend hilling & making them Larger after they begin to run - Finished planting cotten by . . . <sup>Ok</sup> 8<sup>7</sup>

9 Clear, morning quit cold - planted corn in Bottoms

10 Clear cool morning, Edorsed a note for old Skillman afterwards took it off. was a renewal of an old note, I thought it a new one &c. Went to see Uncle Bat. this morning, had his leg broken & fractured above the ankle by a Log rolling past him &c. verry doubtfull if it can be saved.

11 sprinkle rain last night, Clear verry pleasant spring morning Began scraping Cotten this morning

12 Clear summer day, stayed at Uncle Bats Last night, Better this morning, never saw Land in better order for scraping & lighter work - scraping one acre & half a day, (each hand)

13 Light shower at 7 O<sup>k</sup> Cleared off verry pleasant.  
Cloudy cold sprinkle of rain at 4 O<sup>k</sup>

14 Clear cold North wind. fire comfortable this morning.

15 Clear verry cold morning. hoeing at G.<sup>ns</sup> place 170 acres scraped above, 60 or upwards below

16 Raining since Last night & appearance of a rainy day, verry much wanted, cut worms & Grass hoppers Eating cotten great deal at Gibson place - hoeing New ground corn since dinner

17 Began raining at 7 O. great deal of rain fallen winter day fire verry comfortable, 10 or 12 sick measles. &c.

18 Cloudy & cold ground quit wet. some rain last night. Cleared off cold at 5 O<sup>k</sup>

19 Clear cold morning, verry near a frost. Moulding new corn Land cotten one furrow

20 Clear verry pleasant Went over to Ruffins to set a Bear trap. Small house made of Logs Door inside to fall too, in getting corn are compelled to pass the triger - &c.

21 Clear cool morning, pleasant day - hilled some cotten since dinner - Finished scraping Gibson place yesterday dinner, hoeing Little Gate cut cotten not all up in Penrice new ground & part old Land above - 8 hands with measles. 6 or 7 children - Moulding cotten since 9 O<sup>k</sup>

22 Clear Verry pleasant day morning cool - moulding & hilling cotten above, 100 acres. not up sufficient to scrape - Cotten Looks badly from cold nights & Grass hoppers worms &c. Went over to Ruffins to Look at the Bear trap the Boy went early & found two in it & before we could there had got out - Eaten one of the Logs into - intend cealing it with thick plank - stoped hilling Cotten this evening to replant some cotten &c. Went to Jno Towles this evening

23 Clear verry pleasant, Finished moulding one furrow Since new Land & Lane place new ground by 9 oclock - & part Race track

24 Clear pleasant day

25 Cloudy Verry warm morning Appearance of rain,

ploughing corn every other row. Verry hard storm from the West at 6 O<sup>k</sup>. & heavy rain, Must of done great damage above here

26 Cloudy cool - men repairing fence at Clark place - women working on the Dam - killed Large Deer

27 Clear morning quit cold, Bat verry sick since yesterday noon, B. S. Joor Came down yesterday

28 Clear cold morning, Bat some Better, Ruffin sent word this morning that the Trap had a Bear in it, &c. Fine crab grass verry thick in corn field of Last year. corn in new Land hip & waist high. old Land half-Leg & knee high fine colour - will have (I fear) a bad stand of cotton, worms & cold Weather - Caught a small Bear in trap back of Ruffins

29 Some Fogg verry pleasant spring morning - Moulding Cotton at Gibson place - one furrow, this side of Little creek<sup>88</sup> Verry Bad stand replanting it the second time. Finished scraping Except small piece corn Land bottom, Cotten Looks verry badly, number sick & grunting

30 Cloudy verry warm, went driving Large party no Luck

31 Morning verry warm & cloudy An English vetinary surgeon here to day. prescribing for one of my mares (Fanny Bell) remarkably well informed

May 1 Cloudy verry warm morning, hoeing & suckering corn - Finished moulding "one furrow" at G<sup>ns</sup> place Cotten all first planting looks verry badly Leaves nearly et off by Grasshoppers - corn from knee to waist high Looks verry fine - 12 sick measles

2 Clear cool wind from the North, hard shower in the night, hilling cotten this side of Little creek verry bad stand - hoeing corn since dinner

3 Clear verry cold. Fire comfortable - My Driver taken sick yesterday scraping piece cotten & corn bottoms at Gibson place - 21 sick to day. 14 hands

4 Clear cold morning - Finished hoeing corn P. rice field by 7 O<sup>k</sup> hilling cotten above, Finished ploughing old Land corn by 7 Ok P. H. Joor & family here to day.

5 Clear cool morning, ploughing young corn in the bottoms above, hilled race track "cotten" & replanted it. 17 sick

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88 Evidently Little Bayou Sara creek.



6 Clear pleasant day. went hunting. scraping corn in bottoms

7 Clear verry pleasant day. M<sup>r</sup> Thorp here to day. had a settlement with him took my Portrait. 4 framed &c. acted very suspicious, told me the frames were \$11. now \$25 & my reminding him of the 1<sup>st</sup> price, said he was mistaken they were \$16 Which I paid

8 Clear quit warm day, Finished scraping corn in bottoms, hilling Cotten, saw forms to day

9 Clear verry pleasant, Warmest night in some time, heaviest dew, suckered new ground corn, looks verry fine, Finished moulding Cotten

10 Clear warmest night & morning weve had - heavy Fogg. hilling cotten at Gibson place - looks verry fine, forming, from 6 to 18 inches high, Breaking out middles & ploughing new corn Land this side of L. creek close - Several negros quit sick effects of measles

11 Few clouds & Foggy morning, Wind from the south, Breaking out middles new Land above

12 Warm Foggy morning. Finished hilling Gibson place by 11 1/2 Oclock, Working new Land this side of little creek second time, from 8 to 18 inches high & forming Bugs made it verry uneaven & Bad stand, Patience the most provoking negro to get to hoe proper (& Oney) I ever saw

13 Cloudy Damp morning, Hoeing Potatoes. scraping & hilling them, Negros holliday since, Report says the Banks of N. Orleans "Excepting two or three" will be wound up - Corn, one small crib full

14 Few clouds warm. Ruffin just from N. Orleans says times are still getting worse, M<sup>r</sup> N. C. Hall cashier of Bank of Louisiana at St. Francisville, "behind in his cash account \$9000" has been removed, having confidence in the community suffered good many to over draw, nothing criminal on his part - Commenced on Last crib of corn yesterday

15 Cloudy verry warm

16 Clear cool wind from the East. Went to Ruffins. sprinkle rain at Dusk. appearance of hard rain above

17 Cloudy verry warm, running the Bar next to cotten in Race track piece of cotten. ground Baked - 18 ploughs running, threatning rain.

18 Clear verry warm, Finished hilling cotten by 1/2 10

O'clock, hoeing corn since. want rain on cotten corn, & Potatoes. started some scrapers next to cotten in new Land above, ground as dry as can be.

19 Few clouds verry warm, went over to James Flower<sup>s</sup> yesterday evening heard some "splendid" music. two Italians one Swiss. accompanied them serenading - 7 sick

20 Cloudy verry warm & Foggy morning, hoed corn in bottoms & hoeing Log ground corn

21 Clear verry warm - Finished hoeing corn by one o'clock - negro<sup>s</sup> holliday since - shower rain & noon

22 Few clouds verry warm - Mrs Lyons called yesterday, requested me to attend to Robert<sup>s</sup> place - Settle dificulties &c. A. G. Barrow & Miss Swift here to day

23 Few clouds verry warm - M<sup>r</sup>. Gerardi "the Dancing Master" here to day

24 Few clouds verry warm - hoeing cotten above the third time since yesterday morning. scraping it verry light, some pusley &c. ploughing Pond cut of corn every other row. ground as dry as can be & hard, more for an experiment &c.

25 Cloudy cool & Damp. Wind East - Fine rain Last night, too wet to plough in cotten, ploughing corn evry other row. never had worse corn on old Land of the size it is waist & head high White and yellow looking stalks, Cotten beautifull, from 8 inches to knee high - raining above "in sight" & below, cleared off at 5 O'clock

26 Clear verry pleasant, hoeing new Land below "cotten", ploughing every other row in corn Deep

27 Clear verry warm - hoed piece young corn at Gibson<sup>s</sup> planted some Goard seed corn in small piece of cotten - every other row - (bad stand of cotten) - corn verry much improved since the rain - Best crop at Gibson place by far I ever had - cotten half leg high & hardly a stalk missing clean &c. saw a cotten Blossom

28 Clear verry warm, several persons Came by. went Driving 6 shoote's at Deer all missed

29 Foggy morning verry warm

30 Cloudy verry warm morning Took 4 negros of George Joor 2 women 2 men - for \$2000. part of money due me 18 months Endorsement. Cotten bluming in all 1<sup>st</sup> planting, hoed pond cut of corn

31 Cloudy foggy & hot morning, hoeing race track scrap-  
ing Where there is any grass or pusley, 3 men getting timber  
for Fodder house. running four furrows round cotten since yes-  
terday morning - Mrs Joor came down

June 1 Clear verry hot day hoeing new ground corn Land  
cotten 4<sup>th</sup> time. tie vines thick, fine grass verry thick all  
over Gibson place

2 Clear warm day - not pleased with the appearance of the  
negros received of G. Joor. hoeing Gibson place since yester-  
day dinner, ploughing 22 ploughs this side Little creek - sev-  
eral sick

3 Few clouds & verry hot morning

4 Clear verry hot morning "holliday"

5 Few clouds verry hot - Jno Holmes the Whig candidate  
for Legislature called to day

6 Cloudy verry warm - ground verry dry, continual wind  
blowing since it rained, Finished hoeing Gns place third time,  
hoeing Penrice new ground scraping grass & vines out & Lev-  
eling through behind the ploughs - Went down to M<sup>rs</sup>. Joor  
place Jno. Joor manager never saw a place in worse order,  
negros hoeing cotten as though they were cutting bushes.  
Leaving as much grass or more than they cut, not half hilled  
1<sup>st</sup> time, there appears no system in giving order? the Driv-  
er in presence of John ordering them to hoe up &c.

7 Clear verry hot day, Finished hoeing Penrice new ground  
part Little gate cut - brushing through, tie vines were pretty  
in it - never had or saw such a crop of cotten at this time of  
the year, from half Leg to near hip high well branched  
balled & limbed - clean &c. corn verry good but wants rain,  
in bottoms Excepted - have only 50 Acres of cotten that is not  
first rate. old Land beyond the Gin house came up badly & cut  
worms - suckered some corn, old Land verry fine. new ground  
suffering verry much

8 Few clouds verry hot. hoeing cotten beyond the Gin  
house - & the only inferior cotten I have - 24 ploughs running  
in corn every other row, bottoms entire, stoped ploughing corn  
too dry & hard - Finished hoeing cotten 3<sup>d</sup> time 5 OK

9 Clear verry warm, went drawing the sein Caught great  
many Fish hoeing corn in bottoms & made dam in bottom field  
"pasture"

10 Cloudy some prospect of rain hoeing corn in old  
Land hilling it. wants rain, Potatoe vines have grown fine-  
ly, take my crop entire I never saw such, all persons below

me for several miles are in the weeds & grass tie vines &c. cotton small & badly shaped. Finished running round cotton 4 Furrows 2<sup>d</sup> time

11 Verry warm Early - 6 O<sup>k</sup> cool wind came from the North negros Holliday, excepting timber gathers &c.

12 Few clouds verry warm, ground as dry as can well be, Both corn and cotton suffering for rain - M<sup>r</sup>. Riddel & Jno Joor rode over my crop this evening they have seen no crop at all to compare with it, from half Leg to waist high bolled & formed as well as can be for the season several grown Boles on a stalk. the 1<sup>st</sup> planting

13 Clear pleasant wind from the North - hoeing corn early in the day - hoed cotton this side Little creek, Began Breaking out middles of 2<sup>d</sup> Hilling. & started 9 scrapers in old Land once and twice in a row

14 Cloudy cool, must have rained some Where above - all hands in corn this morning. two Whip saws, sawing timber for flooring scaffolds Fodder house &c. Carpenters building house for servants, hoed over race track cut after dinner. 60 acres leveled the dirt through - no grass any part of the plantation

15 Clear quit cool since last evening. never saw my corn worse burnt than the new ground in places, hoeing lane place new ground splendidly branched & formed bolled &c. Ginney Jerry has not been seen since Monday morning. ran off and for. What can't imagine - Came up Sunday for a dose of oil, has been for 8 or 10 days getting timber no one to watch him his old habits returned "of shirking," will shoot to kill him if an opportunity offers - otherwise will sell him, am satisfied will allways run away unless constantly watched - has not been touched this year, nor have I said a word to him, pray for a shot at him

16 Dark Hazy morning, constant wind from the North, stoped ploughs. running 6 Harrows in old Land middles & 9 scrapers Finished above. scraping G<sup>n</sup>s since dinner. Several sick Mrs Joor here since yesterday

17 Cloudy threatning rain, never was more wanted. The most outrageous circumstances happend above here on the river ever heard of in this country, two runaways went to an old man<sup>s</sup> took him and his Daughter ("simple minded") carried them Back in the swamp killed the old man, & Whiped the Girl most unmercifull, forcing her to submit to their hellish design<sup>s</sup>, short time after went to another house killed the owner then took his wife & young child off with them treated as the former, "they had a negro woman with them she prevented their killing the White women" the married woman shoed

great presence of mind. tearing pieces of cloths & dropping them as she went along was that enabled persons to trace them up, they were Caught and Burned alive, great many to witness it & several hundred negros &c. Burning was even too good for them - Hoe hands out of work in the field at 4 O<sup>k</sup> - sprinkle rain at 5 O<sup>k</sup>, hard rains in the North East & South

18 Cloudy warm & Damp morning, Holliday & dinner for negro<sup>s</sup> - hard rain for 10 minutes - shower this morning hard rain for 10 minutes at 4 O<sup>k</sup> - rain light till night

19 Raining verry hard from day light till 7 O<sup>k</sup> appearance of rainy spell, the making of my corn, Robt. J. B sending after Potatoe vines

20 Cloudy verry warm - planting Potatoe vines, Not rain Enough to wet the ground in the corn - in fine order to plough, Hard shower at one oclock, planted part of Potatoe vines by forcing them down through the Bed with a forked stick or grove in the end &c.

21 Cloudy warm - Jack & Ben Caught A. Dunbar<sup>s</sup> old negro Damps, Finishied working & planting Potatoe vines.

22 Few clouds warm wind from the South - Sucklers spinning, Uncle Bat. told my boy to turn old Demp<sup>s</sup> Loose & let him go. been runaway some months, Dunbar treats him verry badly old & cripple, a verry Bad Example. he shall not stay in this neighbourhood<sup>89</sup> - stoped ploughs, hoeing since dinner

23 Rain few minutes "hard" at 6 O<sup>k</sup> All hands cleaning up & cutting down small trees in pasture. Rain at 12 O<sup>k</sup> hard rains all around. Corn improving verry much - Cotten growing verry fast, great many Bolles. some rot in New ground - ground too wet to work

24 Clear most pleasant morning for some days - hard rain at 12 O<sup>k</sup>

25 Clear warm - Tie vines and grass have come up as thick as can well be. ground rather wet to plough or hoe - Robert J. B child - Carey - died last night

26 Attend the funeral this evening hard rain this evening - Verry heavy Fogg & cloudy since have an abundance of rain for the present. grass & tie vines look scarry.

27 Sprinkle of rain at 7 O<sup>k</sup> - started all hands in the field this morning. hoeing ploughing & scraping - running scrapers before the hoes close to the cotten faster work for

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<sup>89</sup> A very unusual course of action for a planter.

hoe hands. Working old Land Back Gin house - ploughing Lane new ground Light shower at 4 O<sup>k</sup>

28 Few clouds wind N. West - most pleasant morning in some weeks - Working at Gibson<sup>s</sup> place. Light rain from 4 O<sup>k</sup> till night

29 Clear verry pleasant morning, hoeing Penrice new ground vines & grass verry thick - never saw as good a crop as I have at this time, the only fault some places rather thick - I fear - corn verry fine

30 Clear verry warm - Finished hoeing all old Land that was in corn Last year by dinner Cotton from 2 feet to 6 feet high & well Branched - & bolled - hoed two thirds of race track cut. better than I ever saw it.

July 1 Few clouds. verry hot - hoeing Gibson place - fine grass verry thick, hard wind from the West at 11 O<sup>k</sup> rained one hour steady verry cold. Dark clouds & continued Lightning in the West - at Dark

2 Cleared off after day Light cool North East wind. Finished hoeing Gibson place - Excepting part new ground - by 2 O<sup>k</sup>

3 cold morning - Few clouds in the East.

4 Clear, very warm day. Went to Town. Voted Henry Johnson for Gov<sup>t</sup> J Holmes for Representative, A. G. Carter Senator H. Buhler for congress Whig Ticket - Old Grays mulatto family past here yesterday. on their return made my negro get as many horses as they could & gallant them from End of the Lawn through, no doubt the greatest indignity I could have offered them - they will never pass here again

5 Cloudy cool threatning rain, started 19 ploughs yesterday 5 scrapers, all the new ground to hoe - & verry grassy, several sick, W<sup>m</sup> Joer came down to day

6 Cleared off Last night, warm. G. Jerry came home this morning, Appearance of uncom<sup>m</sup> hard rain in the East. Light sprinkle here at 5 O<sup>k</sup> - Hail in the East

7 Morning clear verry warm, went Driving no Luck - sprinkle at Dust, hard rain & great deal of Lightning in the East.

8 Verry foggy morning no clouds, hoes & ploughs done small days work yesterday

9 Cloudy morning, Appearance of hard rain above - sprinkle here at 5 O<sup>k</sup>

10 Clear verry warm. not quit half crib "small" of corn - Cutting Corn for horses. D Barrow & family Rosalie & Amanda here to day - Mary B. & Amanda the handsomest Girls I ever saw Rosalie Beautifull in maners & goodness &c.

11 Clear warm heavy Dew. cotten not as good for want of ploughing soon after the rains, Gibson place fallen off verry much in the Last week - Several sick one verry sick. Son James sick this morning from exposure yosterday, all day - hoed crop 4<sup>th</sup> time & half 5<sup>th</sup>

12 Clear warm - James verry ill. inflamatory sore throat, Light shower rain, finished ploughing above this morning 6 O<sup>K</sup>. all clean above. middles fowl all below drill clean 24 ploughs runing

13 Clear verry warm, James verry ill. perfectly delirious, Walker attending on him - pulled some Fodder, several negros very sick effectede same as James

14 Clear verry cool. James still verry ill - Brain verry much affected sprinkle rain, want rain verry much pulled 30 acres Fodder

15 Light rain at day Light, James verry ill all night throat some better, has not taken a Gill of nourishment since Monday - the Baby (Amanda) sick Last night, John with Fever this morning

16 All the children sick except daughter Caroline - all verry ill - scarlet Fever

17 Children very ill

18 Children very ill

19 James some Better D<sup>r</sup> Walker attending them, Poor Little Bat, died this morning six 6 oclock. conjection of the Brain & stomach, never shall believe but if he had of been vomited well & Blistered in time But he would have lived

20 Poor Caroline taken this morning at 3 oclock. never saw her more gay than all yesterday, 'till she found out poor Bat was no more

21 Poor Caroline died last night 1/2 past 12 Oclock 22 hours sick, all for the want of an Emetic. Began giving her one the D<sup>r</sup> came & perswaded me changed it to Calomel & Rhubarb - no effect. conjection soon followed

22 Children Better & seen on the mend, Poor Caroline & Bats place seems a Gulf unlimited every place seems wrong. the other children constantly enquiring after them. Who could in-

form a poor orphant, surely none that has received the shock that I have, one just after one & hardly cold, Dr Walker pronounces it Scarlet Fever, so far I have cured every little negro by constant Emetics Bleeding in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage

23 Never in my life have I felt or witness such times & feelings as for the Last week - having company relieved us some this morning we are alone - Enough God<sup>s</sup> will be done - can never repay the kindness of Brother Ruffins family, running the risk he did. Rosalie with us constantly & himself, she & her Ma - both are attacked with violent sore throat, it seems the family are all doomed to sore trials this summer. Robt J. B. is this morning verry ill. Bennet J. B wife allso - my four children left are on the mend - but helpless, great many negros sick sore throats &c. cloudy damp day, rained yesterday, sprinkle rain

24 Cloudy warm, children mending, James a perfect skeliton - number of negros with sore throat

25 Cloudy, raining all round me want rain verry much, never saw a crop of cotton in my life Bolled as thick as they stick - & nearly to the Top. pulling Fodder

26 Cloudy verry warm sent for to see A. G. Barrow been sick 5 days. Dr McKelny attending him giving him nothing but snake root, found him running in to conjection left him at 1/2 6 - stoped every hand to pull Fodder

27 Cloudy verry warm - raining in sight. A. G. Barrow died last night of scarlet fever. died for want of bleeding & a purge in the beginning - down right murder lay 5 days with slight sore throat for want of natural Evacuations - conjection of the stomach took place

28 Clear verry warm. raining all round yesterday. pulling Fodder all hands - putting second house for Fodder, several sick sore throat scarlet Fever

29 Raining "Light" at 8 Oclock. Women spinning. My children mending Clifford<sup>s</sup> mouth & tongue broke out yesterday better to day, Face little swelled - one of Ruffins children taken sick yesterday, Rosalie & her Ma well - went over to Ruffins, all better, Verry hard rain at Ruffins and part Robt. H. B. - fine shower here at 5 Oclock this evening, it seems verry hard for me to get a rain. near six weeks since I had a rain to do any material good 1/2 a mile of me plenty of rain - the Whole time.

30 Cloudy warm, hoeing this side Little creek all hands, Verry hard rain at 1/2 2 Oclock - hardest rain since winter, sprinkling during the evening, cool - Mrs Joer came over from Caroline's this morning, she is much better. nearly well of the scarlet Fever, James John & the Baby well Clifford still



Looks badly, pale & little swelled

31 Cloudy warm morning - went over to Ruffins Little Olivia some better, in returning never saw a more Frightfull appearance in the Heavens. Dark as could be and evry mark of a destructive storm. passed to the East. began raining at dark considerable fell during the night

August 1 Cloudy or Hazy morning, quit cold wind from the N. East, several verry sick negro children, working roads in field & towards Purnells - Sucklers spinning, cleaning out well at the House

2 Cloudy & most remarkable weather I ever knew at this season, Like October - Fire necessary for comfort. all hands hoeing

3 Cleared off since sun rise verry cold, Went to Ruffins yesterday morning his daughter Olivia verry ill, sit up all last night Better this evening, suffering from Putred sore throat, Finished pulling Fodder all 1<sup>st</sup> or old Land

4 Clear cold morning, sun hot Com'd Picking cotten this morning 16 hands, ought to have been at it 10 days ago - Averaged 45 by dinner, 5 or more Bolles open evry part plantation - several sick

5 Clear pleasant, Worked the road as far as the swamp

6 Cloudy damp cold morning - Went to Town to attend a Family meeting, postponed 'till 16<sup>th</sup> all women Picking cotten yesterday, 8 scrapers & ploughs running to day - great many sick, 3 of Ruffins children with scarlet fever

7 Few clouds. warm, went over to Ruffins 5 of his children sick, better & on the mend to day

8 Foggy pleasant morning Picking cotten at Gibson place, all hands & several men putting post under Gin house - 105 picked by dinner 60 Picking

9 Foggy verry pleasant, All hands hoeing at Gibson Bunches of grass & some tie vines too Large to Leave

10 Clear verry warm. all hands picking cotten between 8 & 10 Bales out. Cotten opening verry fast. suffered verry much for rain as far as I can Learn there has been too much, great many grown Bolles, Light rain would be of great service to my crop, probably would stop the rust, Ruffins children all recovered from the scarlet Fever. Except the infant Hilliard - started Trasher this morning, & one Gin

11 Clear verry pleasant morning, appearance of rain above "yesterday". 15 Bales out Ten behind last year.

12 Cloudy verry warm - wind S. East. Avreaged yesterday "65 hands" 142 <sup>lb</sup> clean cotton. opening verry fast. sprinkle rain at 3 O<sup>k</sup>

13 Few clouds verry warm - Want rain verry much. sprinkle rain at 12 O<sup>k</sup> - several sick sore throat<sup>s</sup>

14 Shower rain after day Light. fine rain at 2 O<sup>k</sup> &c. hand<sup>s</sup> picked well yesterday, over 100 acres & av<sup>d</sup> 173 <sup>lb</sup> clean cotton 280 <sup>lb</sup> the highest

15 Cloudy damp morning. all hands hoeing. fine Tossel grass come up verry thick in the Last week in new ground above

16 Cloudy verry Hot day - went to Town to day to attend a Family meeting touching the int<sup>n</sup> of Robt. H. Barrow a settlement with his mother "Mrs Lyons". She brought her Acct<sup>t</sup> showing a Ballance due him of \$87.475 - in payment she offered a place on the river in East Baton Rouge 1000 arpent 45 negroes Horses cattle &c. 3 vacant Lots in N Charles St. N. Orleans all for \$72.000 which was accepted by the family meeting Leaving a Ballance due Robert of \$15000 at 5 pr ct interest

17 Cloudy damp and warm morning sprinkle rain Last night. Light rain from 4 O. till 5. picking at Gibson place - going in for clean Cotton this year. never had such a prospect for a Large crop. Verry few places that is not Loaded down with Bolles & perfect stand, must make considerably over 600 Bales unless uncom<sup>n</sup> bad fall

18 Verry Foggy morning, cleared off yesterday evening, wind from West. several sick, Ruffins family all had the scarlet fever & recovering - shiped 12 Bales cotton yesterday 25 Gined 40 out

19 cloudy damp morning - picking cotton above - fine picking for new Land, hands picking first rate, never suffered as much from sun & heat as I did to day weighing cotton at 12 O<sup>k</sup>

20 Cloudy damp morning, my driver caught Fills Jerry with a Large Rock in his cotton 10 <sup>lb</sup> Jailed him for it till 1<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> next.<sup>90</sup> hands picking finely, Av<sup>d</sup> 194 <sup>lb</sup> day before yesterday 7 that never picked before this season, Leaving them out av<sup>d</sup> over 200 <sup>lb</sup>, Began raining at 1/2 3 O. steady 'till in the night. in returning from weighing cotton after dinner Old Judy called me to see Candis' child Mintey, said she believe it was a little sick, discovered the child dying, "pulseless", Old Anzy "the meanest negro but two I ever saw

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<sup>90</sup> An unusual punishment in view of the fact that the picking season had just begun.

or knew" sent it to Judy Parly in the morning as sick, saw me pass through the Quarter, and was at Gin House all the morning, their carelessness alone caused its death. pulse never returned died in 8 hours

21 Cloudy damp and sultry morning, great deal of rain fallen since 3 O<sup>K</sup>

22 Cloudy damp & sultry morning, My Baby quit sick all Last night Bad colic & coughf, all the children have it, White & Black. over 55 Bales out Saturday - Hoeing to day. too wet to pick cotton, Verry hard rain this afternoon. Lasted 'till nearly night, cleaning & chopping weeds in the Quarter - Ginning at Gibson place to day

23 Damp Foggy morning, Hoeing Pressing & getting Logs for a Jail, several negros sick colds, one or two cases of scarlet fever, Bleeding When first taken and Emetics immediately. will cure it in ninety nine cases in one hundred, Most of Physicians object to Bleeding from the fact the pulse is so small, it is certain to rise When you bleed in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage - they bleed mostly after trying other remedies no doubt will these prove fatal in a majority of Cases - shower at 1 O<sup>K</sup> picking cotton since dinner, great deal open

24 Cloudy verry damp & warm, it seems our family are particular unfortunate this year Robert Loosing his only child, my two. & now Ruffin his youngest child Hilliard died Last night, the scarlet fever Left it with rising under its Jaw, never recovered from it, my family all with verry Bad colds, the Baby "Amanda Rosalie" quit sick few nights ago & now with Constant cold clam'y sweats. Clifford slightly so & Bad coughfs - hard shower after 3 Ok.

25 Cloudy verry damp morning chopping weeds round & back of the house Lot, cutting corn down for turnip<sup>s</sup> and off of Potatoe slips

26 Cloudy verry warm morning. some appearance of clearing off, since 9 O<sup>K</sup> Never more sickness 15 sick & lame - 3 children - scarlet fever - Mrs Flower & Joseph Joor over to see us this evening

27 Clear verry warm morning, great many sick, sent 8 Bales cotton to Town 20 in all. Mrs A. G. Barrow & Miss M. Swift came up this morning, Mary B. is really to be pitied Left with an enormous debt and her husbands relatives Began to show their unfeelingness immediately after Albert<sup>s</sup> death, & wishing her to give up every thing to pay his debts Leaving her pennyles, & one child to support. she is now bound for \$10.000 - Debts of Alberts contracting, I advised her to pay nothing more than Whats she was Bound for, untill those were settled, she could then do as she thought best and able

28 Foggy verry warm morning. Riley still threatned with Lock Jaw - Sent for Walker

29 Few clouds pleasant morning, great quantity of cotten open, the old time rot doing great injury to my crop, great many sick for the Last week

30 Few clouds warm - hard rain on one third of plantat-ion yesterday evening 5 Ok - 20 Bales or more on hand too wet to Gin, weather keeps so cloudy & cotten so green & heavy all most impossible to dry any or more than one scaffold full in a day - Several sick hands picking with great spirit to day

31 Few clouds pleasant morning, Hands picked Extremely well & in new ground, as high as 355 lb Av<sup>d</sup> 230 lb taken the children that never picked before & women not in situation to pick their best & the avreage would be over 250 lb. picked 16.265 lb 9 Bales, hard rain yesterday evening not far off - Verry hard rain at 12 Ok never hated to see rain fall worse, negros were in better Cotten than have been this year, and were trying themselves, several had 150 160 & 195 by 1/2 10 Ok - chopping down coffee in Pasture since 2 Ok

September 1 Cool cloudy & damp morning, never was so Bothered with wet Cotten all under the Gin house scaffolds & pilled up on seed in the yard - that picked of the hottest day we have had much too wet to Gin, over 100 Bales out. hard rain above & Below - D<sup>r</sup> Walker here to see Riley<sup>s</sup> Foot - says it's the Dangee Fever instead of the Lock Jaw - says there was the hardest rain hail & wind from the Big Bayou Sarah down that has been since 1831 - M<sup>r</sup> Butler told me the same - "hapened yesterday"

2 Clear since day Light pleasant, hands picked Verry high yesterday, in old Race track, best Cotten ever on that ground 1/2 a Bale off of it now - no storm will make at least one Bale to the acre - never so troubled with wet Cotten heating & no room yard full - picking at Gibson<sup>s</sup> place to day - Av<sup>d</sup> yesterday 239 lb clean cotten as I generally pick - shower at 1 Ok.

3 Few clouds pleasant morning, picking old Land beyond the Gin house Av<sup>d</sup> yesterday 205. started the Gin yesterday noon at Gibson<sup>s</sup> - hands seemed determined on a Brag days Work to day - picked upwards of 6000 by 1/2 10 & was getting in much better Cotten, Began raining at 12 O'clock - raining off & on till 5 Ok - one hundred and Thirty Bales out or more - Fifty four Pressed in N<sup>o</sup>

4 Few clouds, Wind still from the East. Never had or saw as much cotten open in Sept. as I have & had from 10 days past - fields White Evry Where.

5 Clear verry pleasant morning, Picking at Gibson place, several sick, one With sore Eyes - cleared off since 10 O<sup>ck</sup> picking trashy cotten

6 Clear verry warm, the creek was clear yesterday dinner at 3 O. rising as far I could see no clouds perceptible, sun verry hot

7 Clear warm morning - cotten at Gibson place Fallen verry much two thirds of it dead. all dying, Verry Bad to pick

8 Clear pleasant morning

9 Clear warm. sun all most insupportable - Never saw pretty picking in my Life as the hands are to day, Penrice new ground & Little Gate cut. 700 Weight open to the acre & opened since the rain - Verry light - Av<sup>g</sup> 240

10 Clear warm - picking in Little Gate cut, never saw such picking, hands in fine spirits

11 Few clouds Verry warm - "But one day" yesterday was the highest aveage I Ever had made - Av<sup>g</sup> 305 I think the Best days work I ever knew so many small ones that never picked before this season - two of the Best women hands not in a situation to pick heavy weights, day too hot for me to stand the sun cotten dry. & ground had been picke twict part of it 3<sup>d</sup> time - hard in the Bole. "Little Gate cut" did'ent finish it, the highest picked was 520 <sup>lb</sup> by Atean - in all 21945. "or 305 each" -<sup>91</sup> 72 pickers, 14 Bales - picked this week 53 Bales. & three days in miserable cotten at Gibson or would have picked over 60 B. One hundred & Eighty Bales out Last night Ninety five or more Gined in N<sup>o</sup>

12 Damp Foggy morning Began raining yesterday 2 O<sup>ck</sup> - several showers this morning, women spin<sup>s</sup> men worked the road to the Big road, pulled some Corn "old corn gave out last shelling - 3 Verry sick negros. Bilous pluerisy imflamation of the Liver &c.

13 Rainey day Verry warm - spinning. Trashing Cotten &c.

14 Raining and appears like continuing &c. Drag'd a piece of Bagging in the green pond. caught more fine Trout than I ever saw, some weighing 3 <sup>lb</sup> put near or over 100 in the pond in front Lot. great many Perch shiners miners &c.

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91 For a comparison with other sections of the South, see U. B. Phillips, American Negro Slavery (New York, 1918), pp. 209-210.

15 Cloudy verry warm. picking Cotten. great deal open & rotting verry fast. some wet Cotten on hand that was picked 3 weeks ago. unable to dry it rain at 12 O<sup>k</sup>

16 Cloudy cool East wind, Women spinning &c. Picking cotten since dinner - several shower this afternoon

17 Cloudy cool East wind, wintry Looking day - Emily quit unwell cold Toothache year ache &c. Some appearance of clearing off.

18 Cloudy cool Wind from the East. Hands picked very good weights yesterday had it been cleaner. av<sup>d</sup> 236 - One hundred & ninety Bales out. 128 Pressed, part force picking cotten this afternoon

19 Raining at 7 O<sup>k</sup> Verry Darke Morning

20 Rainey morning. picking since dinner

21 Cloudy warm morning, no appearance of clear weather as yet. shower at 1 O<sup>k</sup> - constant rain from 3 oclock

22 Cloudy warm - picking cotten at 7 O<sup>k</sup> Began raining at 11. Women spinning since dinner, never such destruction from rot in cotten. seems a small Bug makes small hole & then rots. have about 200 Bales out, & 300 open in the field - this weather continues much Longer, Can't make much I did not think (Barring a storm) could make under 600 Bales

23 Cloudy morning, Began raining at 1 O<sup>k</sup> most rain yesterday & to day that has fallen this summer - My Hands have divided themselves in two companys - Atean & D. Bartley the Head<sup>s</sup> to day at 11<sup>0</sup> only 12<sup>10</sup> difference - highest picked 275 lbs, but for rain would have done the Biggest days work ever done by them or I ever heard of<sup>92</sup>

24 Clear for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 14 days. 30 Bales of wet cotten on hand - Cleared off at 5 Oclock P. M - never saw worse cotten than the hands this morning hulls & all

25 Clear cool & pleasant Morning, Compelled to have all hands drying Cotten to day - Sunday.

26 Clear, morning & last night Quit cold, Emily went to Town this Morning. While there was taken very sick Pauletic on one side inflamation in the Brain - spinal attack - sprinkle rain this evening

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92 Contests of this sort were apparently not unusual at Highland.

27 Cloudy cool Evry appearance of rain

28 Few clouds - pleasant - Emily much Better - picking at Gns the verry worst of cotten

29 Few clouds wind East. Threatning rain - Emily improv-  
ing. B. S. Joor came down Tuesday - Went to Miss Swifts A.  
G Barrow property appraised. amt: \$4700.

30 Few clouds. cool wind from the North. Nearly every  
cotten seed spoiled in & out of the field W<sup>m</sup> H. & Sister  
Eliza called by this morning are well pleased with their  
situation on the Island fine Fishing & Hunting - Verry hard  
rain this evening, M<sup>r</sup> Joor Mr Haile & M<sup>r</sup> & Mrs Randolph came  
this evening

October 1 Clear Beautifull morning, Two hundred and Fifty  
Bales out in N<sup>w</sup> over 260 out - 170 Gined 160 Pressed in N<sup>o</sup>

2 Clear Verry pleasant Morning Avreaged yesterday 245  
lb trashy cotten never saw cotten in worse order for Pick-  
ing, weeds grass & perfectly rotten, Bolles sticking to the  
cotten

3 Clear cool & pleasant morning

4 Few clouds warm, Went to Town. still the cry of hard  
times &c.

5 Cloudy Damp morning. Wind from the East. W. D Boyle  
& L. Smith here - all my cotten so rotten, impossible to pick  
it clean, second growth nearly hid every thing - & open so  
Long. saw M<sup>r</sup> Turnbull yesterday the only Independent man  
to be met - Fat & pockets full of money.

6 Clear pleasant morning - picking old Land in front, at  
Least 1000 lb to the acre - 3d picking - have 150 Acres of  
new Land verry White & as trashy & rotten as can be. sprinkle  
rain at 5 O<sup>k</sup><sub>n</sub>

7 Cloudy warm. wind East - trying to get clean Cotten  
picked next to an impossibility - Av. 193

8 Few clouds warm. sixty nine cotten pickers yesterday.  
Began raining at 3 O<sup>k</sup><sub>n</sub> cool wind from the West - first time  
its has Blown from any other than East in two months

9 Raining quit hard, considerable wind from the West &  
North. cold - Emily & children went to M<sup>r</sup> Turnbuls yester-  
day. rain prevented their return last night. Little pros-  
pects of their return to day - 300 Bales out in N<sup>o</sup> 190  
Pressed in N<sup>o</sup> 205 Gined - will make of 400 lb over 320 Bales,

no prospects of any more good cotton to be gathered from the field

10 Clear cold morning - cleared off in the night. picking clean cotton in old Land. intend going over all that's fresh open - Leaving that<sup>s</sup> that Bad for Last

11 Clear quit cold Last night & this morning, Went to Town, the news N. Orleans is really distressing cotton selling from 4 to 6¢ cash 7 3/4 to 8 on 30 & 40 days - all for the want of specie & not being able to negotiate Bill<sup>s</sup> &c.

12 Clear verry pleasant morning. seems nearly an impossibility to get through these times - my merchant "Ledoux" writes me, he anticipates Better times in the course of two months, Trying to make fancy cotton, even that will hardly sell - Sister Eliza here to day - she is verry much pleased with their situation on the Island

13 Clear verry pleasant, my hands have not picked to suit me for some days past. Cotton in new Land perfectly rotten

14 Clear pleasant at Sun rise - at 7 O<sup>k</sup> cool wind sprung up from the North

15 Clear quit cold morning, near a frost if not quit one - Began picking cotton for Quantity - and am certain trashier stuff was never seen - 370 Bales out to night or more of 400 lbs 203 pressed 225 Gined. great quantity open, near 200 Bales to pick

16 Clear cold mornings, dews verry heavy - Mrs Joor here Last night Putting up hogs to Fatten

17 Clear verry pleasant, Began to pick all the Top & Fresh open Bolles for clean cotton, after going over will return & go for quantity

18 Clear pleasant morning - sun hot at noon

19 Cloudy cool & damp wind from the North. Hands picked better yesterday than they have done in two weeks av<sup>d</sup> 196<sup>lb</sup> - Am Certain the Rot (old time) has injured or cut my crop of at Least 150 Bales

20 Few clouds cool N. East wind

21 Few clouds pleasant morning picking in Little Gate cut & the 4<sup>th</sup> time - one Bale to the Acre picked off of it - now 600 to 800 lb, splendid picking.

22 Cloudy warm - hand picking well - 8 to 8 1/2 Bales a



day

23 Rain at day Light, steady rain from 11 O<sup>k</sup> - Picked 50 Bales last week - at Least 400 Bales out in N<sup>o</sup> 245 Gined - one Gin (only) running - owing to trash in cotten & having but one Trasher

24 Damp Foggy morning warm - picking Verry Trashy cotten - put up to fatten 52 Hogs

25 Clear cool wind from the North, sprinkle rain yesterday evening. great many Rain Bow<sup>s</sup>

26 Clear cold morning Quit a Frost. Rece<sup>d</sup>. a Letter from N. Orleans containing still Bad news. Cotten down to nothing. & money verry scarce

27 Clear morning quit cool 'till 9 O<sup>o</sup> Light Frost. picking at Gibson place

28 Clear Frosty morning

29 Clear pleasant, Light frost, hands picked badly yesterday worst days work this season

30 Clear cool morning, Sun verry hot after 9. Between 445 460 Bales out in N<sup>o</sup>. Between 460 & 485 of 400 <sup>lb</sup> - 265 Gined in N<sup>o</sup>. the cotten I picked during the rains & became perfectly hot & rotten is now considered the Best cotten I've made - & too good for the English market so writes my Merchant.

31 Clear pleasant morning. sun hot after 9.

November 1 Clear pleasant Fall day. Few clouds in the afternoon

2 Clear heavy dew, pleasant - picking clean cotten in morning trashy after 1<sup>st</sup> weighing - Mrs Turnbull called to day making flying visits - I was taken this morning with verry strange feelings blood running to the Extremities painfull at the End of my fingers hot & cold for two days, nervous fever

6 Raining wind North - at Breakfast time, Raining verry hard yesterday, my first morning out of the room, Friday night Jack Let Jerry slip for the purpose getting a pig thinking as Jerry was Jailed at night there would be no suspicion of him - for some reason told Alfred Jerry had a pig in his house A. went and found it as Jack thought. put him in Jail & in the stocks in the morning there was nothing of Jerry stocks Broke & door - no doubt some one turned him out - one concerned in the Pig - gave about a dozen severe Whipping in the Yard & all - Jack old Jenny & Darcas the most severe hand sawing

7 Clear Lovely morning. B. J. B. & Robt. J. Ba. here to day - My nephew Robt. H. Barrow came to see me on Friday & Saturday just returned from College - quit fine looking & dignified

8 Clear cool & pleasant spring morning

9 Few clouds cold & windy - Luther Smith Came up Last night with his dogs for a Fox hunt no Luck

10 Cloudy after 8 O. verry cold - stoped at noon to dig Potatoes in returning from Fox hunting this morning, had a race after Ginney Jerry, owing to dogs being tired & R. negros got away

11 Cloudy damp & cold wind from the East, Digging Potatoes since yesterday dinner - Com<sup>d</sup> raining at Eleven Oclock, hard & steady. Mrs M. Barrow & Miss M. Swift came this morning as the rain set in

12 Cloudy Verry cold North wind, Digging Potatoes.

13 Clear cool morning, pleasant day

14 Raining,, cold East wind - 303 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup>. over 500 out in N<sup>o</sup> near 100 to pick. the bottoms & 6 acres at G<sup>ds</sup> nearly filled one Large crib of corn. will have 5 Loads. the 6 acres at G<sup>ds</sup> made 15 Loads of 20 Barrels Each, 50 Barrels to the acre. best turn out I ever made.

15 Cloudy Verry warm - digging slips - Verry heavy rain . at one O<sup>k</sup> women spinning

16 Damp cloudy & verry warm ground verry wet - spinning Trashing cotten &c. showers through the day

17 Cloudy verry warm morning Verry heavy rain last night. & since 7 O<sup>k</sup>, wind got round to the North 1/2 7. turning cold. Ginning at Gibson place to day, spinning trashing cotten, putting sleepers under crib - making verry bad cotten, stained &c. Turned verry cold since dinner Thermometer fell 35 degrees

18 Few clouds as cold as can be, 42 degrees colder than yesterday, pulling corn in New ground - ground frozen

19 Clear verry cold Freezing day Robt J. B. rece<sup>d</sup> 3 Imported Hounds sent them to me, one verry fine Looking, one Like a cur

20 Few clouds cold. ice.

21 Sprinkle rain at 7 O. cold

22 Raining constant since yesterday noon "cold" - picked 15 Bales cotton in 3 weeks past - went driving yesterday killed two Deer.

23 Cloudy cool wind North, Raining all night. Cleared off at 10<sup>0</sup>.

24 Clear verry cold Freezing - Gathering corn

25 Cloudy cool East wind - threatning rain - rainney evening - Taken sick this morning

30 Clear cold wind from the North, Verry bad rainey weather since 25. Left my room to day first time in 5 days Bilious attack, now constant sower stomach. Verry week & verry much reduced - pulling corn "my Last" turning out moor than I ever made - Rob. H. B called by from the Big hunt from Red river, killed 10 Deer, Bad weather all the time they were up - &c.

December 1 Clear cold Frosty morning

2 Clear cold Frosty morning

3 Clear pleasant spring day sister Ann & Dr King came to see us, just from Kentucky

4 Cloudy after 7 O. pleasant

5 Cloudy warm appearance of rain - have been hauling corn for two weeks to day to finish never made such a crop, 5 cribs packed full &c. went to Town - verry hot

6 Clear verry warm Towles & others hunting no Luck.

7 Clear warm & hard wind from South more like March &c.

8 Rained verry hard Last night winter rain this morning. cool wind from the West, Trashing cotton

9 Cloudy Verry Cold, Appearance of snow

10 Cloudy cold East wind

11 Cloudy cold - Dr King practising on two of my negros - & my family &c. Dr King called by to day - much pleased at his description of Mesmerism or animal magnetism. he says it is not a humbugg - &c.

12 Cloudy verry cold & disagreeable day - appearance of snow

13 Clear verry Cold ground as White as snow

- 14 Clear verry cold
- 15 Clear. verry cold
- 16 Clear. verry cold
- 17 Cloudy cool - working the Lane turning the water off of the Lot. Finished picking cotten yesterday
- 18 Cloudy cold
- 19 Cloudy, Threatning rain Went to Old Jo. Grey<sup>s</sup> sale negros went verry high considering the Times
- 20 Rain in the night warm Cleard off Like spring
- 21 Clear verry pleasant day Bought two mules at Greys sale twelve months credit - \$183.
- 22 Cloudy verry cold North wind
- 23 Clear verry cold - Lewis Stirling has the Small Pox on his place, vaxinating all the children
- 24 Few clouds Freezing - Went up to the Big hunt. My two dogs Rashley & Pet out ran the whole crowd
- 25 Cloudy damp E. wind
- 26 Cloudy cool East wind - after 10 summer day
- 27 Few clouds spring day Rosina & M<sup>r</sup>. Grosbeck called by to day - Negros seem lively though the times are hard Eat & drink plenty
- 28 Rain at day Light. & verry hot, summer day, Gave the negros as much of Evry thing to eat & drink during the Holli-days as they Wanted times so hard no able to give any thing more
- 29 Clear cold
- 30 Clear cold morning
- 31 Cloudy verry cold D<sup>r</sup> & Mrs King M<sup>r</sup>. & Mrs Gosbeck here - Negros preparing for a dinner

1843

January 1 Clear pleasant spring day Much alarmed A negro broke out like the small pox. King thinks it Chicken Pox, small Pox on several plantation' in the Parish

2 Cloudy Verry warm - rain after dinner

3 Clear pleasant Cool wind from the North

4 Cloudy Cold East wind

5 Cloudy Verry warm - D<sup>r</sup> Potter the Dentist here & extracted 4 Teeth for Emily - 446 Bales Pressed. 460 in N<sup>o</sup> "Gined"

6 Cloudy warm, 10 Women spinning, 4 men Getting House Board<sup>s</sup>. 2 getting rails - others trashing Cotten

7 Dark dismal Looking morning as hard a rain & wind Last Night as ever I heard "here."

8 Clear Freezing day & never saw as White a Frost, cloudy after 2 Oclock

9 Raining cold East wind

10 Clear Beautifull day, Ruffin's Boy in attempting to cross Big B. Sara came near being drownd lost several letters paper &c.

11 Clear cold morning ice

12 Clear Freezing morning cold N. Wind

13 Clear Verry Cold Freezing day

14 Clear cold morning, pleasant in the sun - Clear cold morning, ice at 1/2 10. Verry pleasant the sun - Mrs. A. Barrow here to day

15 Clear pleasant day - My Old negro Orange died last night of Old age - Considerable over 100 y<sup>rs</sup> A more perfect

negro never lived, faithfull honest & purley religious, never knew him guilty of a wrong

16 Few clouds in the East. pleasant. Began cleaning up. Burning logs knocking down stalks - several sick with Chicken Pox - 468 Bales pressed to day in N<sup>o</sup> 495 Gined

17 Few clouds pleasant spring day

18 Cloudy Verry windy & warm had a run away frolick with my Buggy Horse in going to Town - no damage

19 Cloudy warm & windy day Went up to Robert J. with family.

20 Cloudy Windy & Verry warm.

21 Cloudy Verry warm.

22 Foggy damp morning, Number of cases of Chicken Pox, Vaccinated all my negros, Old & Young Most of them with good taking scars, but have now the appearance genuine

23 Warm Foggy morning - started 20 double ploughs this morning

24 Cloudy verry warm ploughing old Land above for corn & sweet Potatoes. planted 4 acres in sugar cane. "Creole & Ribbon"

25 Cool Foggy morning, W<sup>m</sup> Joor Came down from Woodville, Went to Town yesterday a farther decline in Cotten, I am making application to get a Loan out of the Union Bank

26 Damp Foggy morning, warm, Never knew as pleasant a winter. dry spring weather for near two months - 507 Bales Pressed to day in N<sup>o</sup> 525 Gined in N<sup>o</sup>

27 Cloudy warm morning, rain at 10 Oclock turned cold at 3 O<sup>k</sup>

28 Clear cool morning. Cloudy at 9 O<sup>k</sup> - W. H. B here Last night, Times verry gloomy in N. O.

29 Raining at 8 O<sup>k</sup> cold rain, over 530 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup>

30 Cloudy cool morning, cleard off at 4 O<sup>k</sup> too wet to plough

31 Cloudy Cool Wind from the North

February 1 Clear & cold as can be - a storm Wind from N..

West since last night - Mrs Joor came down yesterday

2 Clear still cold morning everything frozen

3 Cloudy warm - threatning rain.

4 Cloudy warm - threatning rain. Hauling Seed on corn  
Left Home for New Orleans this morning, raising money &c.

15 Left New Orleans yesterday evening 1/2 5. Verry Hot -  
this morning evry thing Frozen & as cold as can be

16 Clear freezing day

17 Clear Verry cold night

18 Cloudy cool - Aunt Bat. Barrow died Last night of  
Billious pleurisy, Want of proper attention in the beginning

19 Rain at day light. Warm - Went this evening to Aunt<sup>S</sup>  
funeral.

20 Clear cool. Breaking out middles for corn 3 1/2  
cribs of corn "or more" Jno Joor married to Miss S. Johnson  
last Week

21 Clear spring day - Broke old Ben of Hog-minding. put  
Henry at it. 23 double ploughs running. Jo<sup>S</sup>. Joor settled in  
St Francisville to practise Law.

22 Cloudy damp & windy day.

23 Cloudy warm M<sup>r</sup> & Mrs Groesbeck here last night,  
threatning rain cool wind from N. West

24 Cloudy cold N. wind, Mrs Joor here - she offered me  
the plantation Bought of M<sup>c</sup>Dermott for the debt due me next  
October. \$20.070, I did not wish to take it. Wanting money,  
agread to take it. offered it to Union Bank on stock Loan  
She seems yesterday unwilling to pass Titles &c. Will see  
to day - has raised to \$22500 I to pay \$3500 in Canal Bank  
at 8 p<sup>r</sup> c<sup>t</sup> & receive only \$1400 pr annum rent - due me to day  
\$19187 - the greatest shylock I ever knew could not ask more,  
a clear loss to me of \$6000 or more - admitting the place worth  
that \$22.500.

25 Few clouds cold. Son John killed two Wild Geese, &  
seems proud as Lucifer - went down to Mrs Joor to conclude the  
sale. no Notary came

26 Clear cold Frosty morning. Verry pleasant in the sun -  
like Indian summer.

March 13 Returned Home from N. Orleans this morning Verry Cold Winter day. rain evry day in N. O. - & colder than Jan<sup>y</sup> - the Comet appearing in the west for 10 days past

14 Clear cold Frosty morning have planted two thirds of my corn - doubtfull of its doing well - ground verry cold - some planted two weeks ago.

15 Cloudy cool morning - Went to Town - turned warm - began raining at 4 O<sup>k</sup> & cold as could be To face it - in my buggy - got Wet & nearly frozen

16 Clear & the coldest morning this Winter & the coldest I ever heard of at this season of the year - corn must all rot, evry thing frozen, several sick

17 Clear cold Freezing morning - Evry thing frozen. Corn planted near 3 weeks just sprouted. & as yet looks sound, 595 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup> - Bought 25 Barrels Mess Pork Cost \$7.62 1/2 c 35 Prime cost home \$5.12 1/2 .22 Casks Mollas- ses 13 1/2 ct pr Gallon - all \$600 - Had to Buy 300 Hhe of sugar at 3 1/2 ct payable 15 November '43 & 1<sup>st</sup> February 44. to raise money. got advance on it \$7000 - more than probable may Loose. had rather run the risk than to be harras'ed to death &c.

27 Returned Home from N. Orleans with family this evening. Verry hard rain at 2 Ok. Turning Verry Cold - Wind North - ground covered with snow last Saturday. seems no End to Winter Corn will all have to be planted over

28 Clear Verry cold, ice - every thing seems to have gone on well during my absence My negros certainly deserve great credit - or uncom-on good driver "Alfred" - James & John were much pleased with their trip Times still worse in the City - My prospects are verry flatering in relation to my sugar speculation

29 Clear cold Frosty morning. Wind East - stopping Washes in Clark place since Monday

30 Cloudy Warm Morning. The Comet & the Millerites is making great noise, some going crazy - Miller predicts the world to come to its End between 21<sup>st</sup> this & 21<sup>st</sup> next March '44 - The comet now appearing is conclusive with great many - Ruffins seem to think we are gone Suckers - cured him of spell Sickness by throwing themselves at his feet praying for permission to have prayer meetings he belaboured them so well Which caused the presperation to flow & cured him

31 Cloudy Wind from the North - Began raining Lightning & thundering at 3 1/2 O'clock - as hard as ever it did - Nearly all night - Sent all ploughs over to plough for Ruffin rain



stoped them - D<sup>r</sup> Potter the Dentist here since 29. & Jo<sup>s</sup>.  
 Joor - Men working at Clark place stoping washes making  
 fence - Went driving no Luck - Never knew the Little creek  
 as high

April 1 Thin cloudy & cold mornings ploughing for Ruffin

2 Cloudy warm. threatning rain, Negros wished to go  
 over to R.H. B. to meeting forbid them, 1/4 of the White  
 population are run crazy on the subject of Miller prophosey,  
 that the world would come to an End some time this year -  
 The appearance of the Comet will confirm the opinion - so be it

3 Light rain during the night spring day, corn coming  
 up in New ground, planted 6 weeks ago - Moving running Geer  
 for Gin from Gibson place - putting Shed House 50 feet square  
 - for 14 feet Wheele

4 Cloudy damp wind from N. East. Never saw the ground  
 so smoothed over & laked by the Last rain. as though it had  
 been glazed over with trowel. - Wet & sticky, will have to  
 plough up nearly all my corn

5 Rain during the night, Light rain at day Light. Cool  
 damp wind from North - intended ploughing up my corn & replant-  
 ed to day but for the rain. ploughed 3 days for Ruffin - 23  
 ploughs - replanting corn since Breakfast droping it water  
 furrow, uncovering first planting & covering this - may get  
 double stand

6 Clear genuine spring day. Most Beautifull one in two  
 months - ploughing up or opening ridges in New ground re-  
 planting the corn.

7 Clear Cool night & morning, Most delightfull day, some-  
 what Hazy - the season three weeks or more behind Last year,  
 Six hundred and Ten Bales Cotten Pressed in N<sup>o</sup> & greatest abun-  
 dance of corn & Potatoes, & three Epidimis on the plantation -  
 Finished replanting Corn ploughing up middles in corn

8 Clear spring day - cleaning up Large Bayou for corn -  
 Holliday since dinner

9 Cloudy damp & Hazy morning this time last year was  
 ready to scrape cotten. Began on the 11<sup>th</sup> Worst year since  
 my planting days, ground with thick crust on it, several hands  
 left by Measles & scarlet Fever with chronic disease of the  
 Liver Breast &c.

10 Dark Hazy morning sun as red as fire, quit cold  
 Wind East, Began planting cotten 6 ploughs - double harrows  
 before the ploughs, &c.

11 Dark smokey morning. pleasant negros are much frighed the thoughts of the world coming to an end any day

12 Cloudy warm morning. Most growing night this season, My children & servants caught the Epidemic Sore Eyes in N. Orleans. ploughing bottoms for corn.

13 Cool Foggy morning, Went to Town - dull & Dusty roads, ground drying verry fast. Cool N. wind. 10 ploughs planting Cotten 20 Harrows

14 Cool Foggy morning, Began dropping seed "Bought of Hall from Petil Gulf"<sup>93</sup> two feet - 150 Bushels to plant. 150 Acres. Dr. Pharis Calliham stoped with me Last night, an old Fox hunter - has five hounds. Now Living on Bayou Deglaze<sup>94</sup>

15 Cloudy Verry warm day. Miles Kelly with saddle Horses with me Last night.

16 Cloudy Verry Hot morning, Some appearance of rain. dropped 100 acres of Bought seed at 2 feet. Bennet J Barrow Robt. J. B & myself have in contemplation, a Loan from W<sup>m</sup> Mure of Europe for 80 or 100.000. Ruffin allso - Gave my negros a Lecture "to day" upon the folly of their belief that the world would End to day, & their superstitious belief in Dreams &c.

17 Dark rainy morning fine rain before day - great deal of Lightning - Never came in a better time, ground was uncom-on dry, Cotten coming up Where it was covered well, will make an effort to raise my Gin House, between showers. No rain from 8 O<sup>k</sup> Verry hot

18 Raising Gin House few ploughs for Potatoes, seeding corn women since yesterday dinner - Clear cool morning Clear cool morning, Planting sweet Potatoes since Breakfast.

19 Clear cool morning. Went hunting with young hounds this morning, had the Bad luck to loose my Watch, have looked over the course I went, intend sending a number of hands, may fine it, uncommon hard rain at 4 oclock & till dark. Cotten coming up except Where covered too deep

20 Dark Damp cloudy morning, Wind East. Seeding corn. nearly finished planting Sweet Potatoes 10 Acres planted, The Epidemic sore eyes has got among my field hands, rain at dark. great deal of Lightning

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<sup>93</sup> Petil Gulf cotton was a short staple variety from Petil Gulf, Mississippi.

<sup>94</sup> In Avoyelles parish, Louisiana.

21 Cloudy, Wind East. hoeing new ground corn, too wet to plough, W<sup>m</sup> Joor came from Woodville yesterday, Never had a more gloomy prospect for a crop both corn & Cotten, Crab grass as thick as can be - Several hard showers since noon.

22 Never within my knowledge did it rain as much as during last night. the creek over its bank, bottom field a perfect sheet of water, running through by the Green pond taken way fences evry Where, continued Lightning from 1/2 hour by sun 'till Six O'clock this morning, Clear in the North, Wind East. the plantation Literally washed away - No doubt the negros were alarmed to morrow is the day, instead of Last Sunday that the world was to be destroyed - The creek is much higher than old Joshua ever saw it since it was a small branch near 30 year ago

23 Dark Foggy morning, the sun set clear yesterday, & the appearance of Clear weather, this morning threatning bad, Got W<sup>m</sup> Joor to cross the creek this evening, just as he reached the shore down he went, after several hard struggles horse stuck & off went Billy &c.

24 Cloudy Hot morning - the creek ran over its Banks Where Penrice joins Gibson place, took away all the fence to Little Creek - & filled my field full of Logs Worse than a new ground - M<sup>r</sup> Flower tells me that all the Fencing on Big B. Sara has been carried off from Bluff to Bluff more than half mile wide. I never heard of its being as high. destroying large fields unfit for cultivation this year. ploughing corn two Furrows

25 Heavy Fogg this morning, seeding corn, some splitting rails, More pleasant since yesterday noon - cotten all up finely, one days planting old Land in Penrice field, few acres at Gibson

26 Cloudy warm morning Finished ploughing corn 1<sup>st</sup> time by dinner, Finished seeding corn by dinner D<sup>r</sup> Potter the Dentist here since last Friday Taken sick, two chiles & now seems as though he was at Home & no hurry to move, shows how necessary to be cautious 'till one knows another, before being too polite, to Northerners in particular. & Foreigners &c. Hoeing new ground since dinner, ten N<sup>o</sup> 4 Double ploughs Bar-ring off cotten, two furrows only, since dinner

27 Cloudy Verry warm & damp - Repairing fence at Gibson place & finishing planting cotten. sprinkle rain at day Light. stoped all hands from jobs to work corn & Cotten both suffering for work, Cotten 1<sup>st</sup> planting with form Leaves - two small cribs of corn untouched. Large crib 2.3<sup>ds</sup> full "or near" of shucked corn. droped rain at 2 O<sup>k</sup> Turned cool. wind from the North

28 Clear quit cold. wind East Finished planting cotton by dinner, ground verry hard, covered it with double Horse harrow. All hands hoeing corn since dinner, making one lick between Each hill & thinning it, Looks well 8 to 14 inches high

29 Cloudy pleasant morning, Ten doubles ploughs N<sup>o</sup> 4 Barring off Cotton two furrows. Turned verry warm yesterday noon at 5 O<sup>k</sup> turned cold sprinkle rain from the East

30 Clear cool wind from the North Began raining last night at dark and never rained harder, Broke my dam in front Lot, & carried of Fencing that never was moved Before, on Back part of plantation Loosing my fish. I regret more than any thing Else, finest Trout I ever saw, &c.

May 1 Clear cold morning, repairing dam. "temporarily," intend to make the next one to stand, Finished hoeing corn 1<sup>st</sup> time Began scraping Cotton at Eleven oclock 50 hoe hands, ground laked & heavy

2 Thin clouds cool morning, cold East wind, Verry much like rain - scraping droped seed Verry tedious cut worms at work

3 Clear cool morning sun Hot, Several sick, Have the best prospect for Hogs I ever had over 300 head. now mostly crossed with Berkshire, Easily kept fat, small bone, Black, half-Breed spotted

4 Clear morning quite Cold - Finished scraping new Land above by 9 Oclock, replanted droped cotton, Old Land first planting as grassy as can be. I am more behind in comparisor with my neighbours than ever I was, being from home Last of March, ought to finish scraping Cotton this week, now will not finish before last of next

5 Cloudy damp East wind Finished scraping cotton above, 200 Acres by sun up

6 Clear Summer day, Went driving with James & John. no Luck, Ground getting Verry hard & dry

7 Cloudy Damp morning, Went "for the first time" to look for Ginney Jerry Last night. no signs - Jno. Towles and Charles Percy caught him this morning, near Where I supposed him to be, near or between Mrs Stirling's & Courtneys, What seems most singular, that I've never looked for him but once Each time of his runaway &c. but that he was caught the next morning, Looks as fat as can be, been out six months and three days.

8 Cloudy warm & damp morning. hoeing piece of bottom

below Quarter in corn Last year. as grassy as can be. Several sick, hard rain for 5 minutes at 2 O<sup>h</sup>

9 Verry hard rain at 6 O<sup>k</sup> this morning, for 1/2 an hour, sufficient to raise my pond within 2 feet of its running out, 12 feet water in it, Working at it at daming the Lane

10 Fogg Eaqual to a small rain, crab grass showing its head in great abundance - Miss Swift Mrs A. G. Barrow & Mrs Jno Joor here to day

11 Clear Verry warm morning, hoeing over Little creek since 3 O<sup>k</sup> yesterday, cotten all looks uncom-n fine, for its age. Began moulding cotten at 1/2 10 with 10 ploughs, one furrow.

12 Clear verry hot. Went driving Bad shooting of standers spoiled sport.

13 Cloudy damp. Appearance of rain, negros complain verry much of the hard scraping at Gibson place Bull tongue grass, 5 double ploughs Barring off in Penrice bottom, verry hard on horses, Finished scraping 1<sup>st</sup> planting by 10 O. Moulding Pond & Little Gatecut of cotten Looks remarkably well

14 Cloudy warm. Wind South, appearance of rain

15 Raining verry constant from 2 O<sup>k</sup> till seven & verry hard. great deal of Lightning hoeing & ploughing since dinner in new ground corn, scraping Potatoes. find stand

16 Damp hot Foggy morning started 15 ploughs in corn - 5 double "still" baring off

17 Cloudy verry warm - went hunting killed a fine Turkey

18 Cloudy damp morning - Finished barring off by Breakfast. running one furrow only round corn. Finished running one furrow round corn 4 O<sup>k</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup> time

19 Cloudy cool North wind Finished scraping cotten this morning sun up. hilling 10 acres new ground, Hoeing corn since verry grassy in new ground, Moulding cotten 19 ploughs since yesterday 4 O. Looks remarkably well 8 & 10 inches high all first planting or two thirds of my crop. fine grass verry thick in some of it, 13 days scraping Cotten, the worst scraping I ever had

20 Clear cold night & morning, Finished moulding cotten above "one furrow" by Breakfast. Cut worms using up all re-plant corn in old Land looks as fine as ever I saw it cotton fine

21 Cloudy cold morning, sprinkle rain at 12 A M. Went Driving to gratify Robt. H. B & Young C. Mathews. Killed fine Buck in the drive. Mathews missed, dislike hunting on Sundays. a day of all others I wish to be at Home.

22 Clear cool morning, cleared off Last night appearance of hard rain below, during the night. Moulding cotten below with 20 ploughs "one furrow" fine grass looks much Like becoming Benl Green

23 Clear cold morning & night. several sick, Finished hoeing corn second time by 1/2 7 Ok. Began hoeing cotten second time at 8.

24 Clear pleasant, several sick Rosalie & Amanda here yesterday help<sup>d</sup> considerably at the sein, Dark clouds & heavy rain below at D Barrows. dropped here

25 Foggy morning warm, Finished moulding 1<sup>st</sup> planting yesterday dinner, hilling new Land above, Lice ruining it in places scattered over the place more than I ever saw them

26 Foggy warm morning, Cotten forming for 10 days past, Finished moulding cotten by . . . oclock. running the Bar next to to cotten & throwing one furrow back to first 100 acres moulded, hard rain laked the ground. too hard for hoe hands, 19 ploughs running, several sick

27 Clear verry warm, Went to Ruffins Expecting to meet M<sup>r</sup> Black of N. Orleans. through him & M<sup>r</sup> Mure "the consol." we anticipate raising \$110.000 for Ruffin B. J. B Robt J B & myself, on 5 years at 4 or 5 pr ct.

28 Few clouds, warm South wind M<sup>r</sup> Black spent the day with me

29 Cloudy cool north wind. hard shower of 3 minutes during the night. sent carraige for M<sup>r</sup> Mure to day, I look forward to next fall with the greatest anxiety, dreading to hope or think of success in the Loan of \$100.000 - ploughed Potatoes

30 Clear quit cold fire comfortable, M<sup>r</sup> Black brought me acct sales of my purchase of sugar sold in New York for 4 1/4 & 4 1/2. Will have to pay Jacobs only 10 pr ct. for the amt I gave him for it, ploughing bottoms for corn, & ploughing out middles in corn, ten double & ten single ploughs. Met at Ruffins to day draw up & send our authorization to M<sup>r</sup> Mure of Eourop to make a Loan for us of \$100.000.

31 Clear verry cold night. great injury to cotten, had Began forming Beautifully from 8 to 18 inches high all 1<sup>st</sup> planting, Corn uncom<sup>n</sup> fine from waist to over head high

June 1 Clear cold night and morning, ground getting as dry as powder, Went to Town yesterday, times verry dull, Court just closing, great deal of Litigation, Endorsements &c.

2 Clear pleasant, Sun after 12 till 4 verry hot. dry wind from South, every thing suffering for want of rain, stoped hands from hilling 1<sup>st</sup> planting to scrape & kill cut worms at Gibson place "young cotten" cleaning every thing before, never saw them as Bad

3 Clear sun verry hot. Went Fishing at Rats. Lake, caught great many

4 Clear pleasant morning, sun verry hot, hung my sein to day, draged it this evening all small fish

5 Clear verry hot, went to Town. verry dusty, few clouds in the West since noon.

6 Clear Fresh breeze from the North, Finished planting all the Bottoms in corn, hilling young cotten, ploughing out middles sprinkle rain at 12.

7 Clear verry warm, The Dentist here Extracting Teeth for Mrs Haile & James & John, Carpenters working at Gin house finished breaking out middles above & two thirds below, Went to the Miss Swifts & Mrs Joors

8 Cloudy verry warm, appearance of in several directions, Finished hoeing cotten second time yesterday 6 O<sup>k</sup> could have finished 2 days earlier, Cotten Blumes yesterday, ten days later than last season, 2 small cribs of corn & 200 Barrels over, getting Boards in the swamp, crop clean excepting few middles & bunches of grass not well cut in hilling, hard shower at 12.

9 Cloudy warm. planted Peas yesterday, shower at 12 O. Finished my sein. over 60 feet Long. Caught many fine Trout out of green pond

10 Raining, & appearance of rainey day, crop in fine order. all first planting from one to two feet high well branched, Finished breaking out middles last night, excepting small piece at Gibson Where the cut worms are cutting it down. hard rain at 11 O<sup>k</sup>

11 Cloudy cold morning, rained Last night, Verry rare occurunce, to rain at night in June

12 Hard rain during the night. Winter rain during the morning Bad gloomy Looking day wind from East. working my roads swamp &c.

13 Cloudy warm morning, wind East, ploughing corn, part of it middles not broken out this year, looks well, cotton growing verry fast, bluming well since the rain<sup>s</sup> set in. never knew rain to fall more gently at this season wet the ground with out running, several showers at noon

14 Few clouds warm sun. pleasant breeze from South East, Tie vines coming up thick. corn improving rapidly

15 Shower at 6 O. Verry warm Killing out worms at Gibson place, ruining 60 Acres or more in one body cutting & making Bad stand all the place, fine grass & Tie vines thick as can be, Several showers at Gibson<sup>s</sup> between 10 & 11 O<sup>k</sup>, ploughed part new ground corn looks well, 450 acres of good cotton, for its age as good as can well be, 150 acres verry inferior, young & cut worms will nearly destroy it. Several sick, threatning verry hard rain, uncom<sup>n</sup> hot.

16 Cloudy Hot night & morning shower Last night, running one furrow round cotton, hoes behind cutting through, Easier on hoe hands. fine grass & Tie small Eaisily killed. scraped new ground yesterday side at a time, slow work. cut worms still using up young Cotton. Verry hard rain

17 Cloudy Verry hot morning Went to Rat<sup>s</sup> Lake fishing Bit well

18 Cloudy Verry hot morning Warmest weather for few days we have had, nights verry hot, corn improving verry fast, great many in the grass, Fine grass & Tie vines thick as can be & ground verry wet

19 Cloudy warm & Foggy morning J. Joor here Last night, running one furrow round cotton, hoeing above scraping, ground wet, corn silking & Tosseling - Hard rain several shower during the day, Went to Town to attend a meeting of the creditors of A. G. Barrow.

20 Clear pleasant morning all hands hoeing since yesterday evening, ground wet as can be, Penrice bottom & old Land below "in corn Last year," crab grass & vines threatening to take it water standing in every row

21 Clear pleasant morning. ploughing above one furrow, Finished hoeing over Gibson place 1<sup>st</sup> planting by . . . O<sup>k</sup>,<sup>95</sup> Cut worms have quit since the rain - Several sick, cotton at Gibson<sup>s</sup> grown too fast Large Leaf & Leggy

22 Clear warm morning, rain at 5 O<sup>k</sup> River & swamp rising verry fast



23 Clear verry warm, went Deer hunting yesterday & to day  
Deer Leaving the swamp

24 Cloudy verry warm hunting to day, verry hard rain  
below mist here at 5 Ok. working young cotten ran one  
furrow round it. ground verry wet for fear of drowning out  
& grass was compelled to do so, verry fearfull of doing great  
injury unless it rains on it, hard rain for one hour & 3/4 af-  
ter 5 Ok

25 Damp cloudy morning, Corn verry fine. 1<sup>st</sup> planting cot-  
ten fine, new Land some places grown rather fast young cot-  
ten improving verry much, several sick, rain from 4 O. till  
dark

26 Rain "hard" at 6 Ok. Verry warm wind East. "still"  
ploughing from necessity, ground wet as can be. running one  
furrow only. Penrice bottom looks verry much like making hay  
instead of cotten in corn last year & too wet to work

27 Several showers before noon Verry hot & oppressive day  
heavy rains in the S. west, ploughing one furrow at Gibson  
place. wet & heavy, Cotten drill. Excepting bottom Land in  
tollerable order. some vines & fine grass just up - Cleared  
off in the North since 4 Ok

28 Clear summer morning warm - wind South, stoped ploughs  
too wet since cleared off, plough hands putting new Geering  
Beam in Gin house - Old Dennis Burnes here to day. Been work-  
ing in Genl Joors family for 20 years, Employed him to build  
me a press.

29 Clear warm morning, ploughing one furrow & 4 furrows  
Barring off young corn - hoeing new Land above, cotten & corn  
still verry fine. uncom hard rain between 4 & 5 Ok Wind  
leveled the new ground cotten furrows leveled with water,  
had just began working Penrice bottom, thick with crab Grass  
only one furrow round it, looks well tho young

30 Cloudy threatning rain, Verry warm, several light  
showers during the morning, throwing two furrows to the middle  
in Lane new ground, verry bad ploughing & hoeing owing to cot-  
ten being blown down, Several sick, yesterdays wind blew the  
cotten more than any wind since 1834.

July 1 Cloudy warm - Heavy rain - went Hunting great  
many Deer

2 Cloudy verry sultry & wet Hunting to day Killed  
verry Large Deer - son James shot one Lost it in the water

3 Cloudy cool wind from the North Cleared off at 4 Ok.  
Hoeing Penrice Bottom, ploughing out middles Making Baskets.

4 Clear pleasant day. Big doings in Town. & Election going on for Congress, Hunting to day Jas. Flower jr. M<sup>r</sup> Thuer Lafare Hurlburt, John & James, 8 Barrels fired at one Large Buck in open field & then let it get away, Killed Large Doe in the drive, Finished ploughing above. ploughing Penrice Bottom since

5 Cloudy verry warm day, seversl sick, Went to Ruffins his crop very grassy, W<sup>m</sup> & Eliza here yesterday. just from the Island, Water destroyed 200 Acres of his Cotten, D Barrows crop on the river ruined, shower in sight.

6 Clear pleasant morning - Finished ploughing P. rice field by Ok ploughing Gibson p. since 23 ploughs. Went down to see Bennet J. on the river

7 Cloudy verry warm - verry hard rain at 10 Ok. more water on the ground than from any rain since it set in, every furrow full,

8 Cloudy verry hot day, heavy rains all round. never knew as many Alligators to be in the swamp. caught two of my dogs

9 Heavy clouds around the Horizon, verry warm. Son Clifford taken Quite sick in the night.

10 Cloudy verry warm morning Finished Breaking out middles 2<sup>d</sup> time at Gibson place, by 11 Ok, hoeing P. R. new ground Verry grassy. Tossel grass - Son Clifford some better this morning. Alligators caught one more dog, 3 in all.

11 Few clouds. verry hot Clifford quit sick during the night, negroes getting quit sickly for few days past, verry hard rain at 12 Ok several hard showers after dinner, ground Where ploughed lately verry wet.

12 Foggy hot morning, Went to Town - Robt. J. B. came by with me, thinks my crop the Best one in the state - or as fine as he ever saw, in fine order "remarkable" for the season some fine grass in drill & middles, ploughs will be through to day. hoes the worst to morrow, cotten from hip to head high as thick or wide as it is high, well formed & Bolleing verry fast

13 Clear, Foggy morning verry hot. several sick & pretending to be, Went down to Mrs Joors & Miss Swifts. sprinkle rain here. heavy clouds in N. E & South

14 Clear pleasant morning, River falling quit fast.

15 Cloudy verry hot day, good many hunting with me to day - killed two Deer

16 Clear Excessively Hot day morning pleasant, Verry hard yesterday & day before - Went up to see Robert J B J & W H. crop? never in my life saw such a prospect as Robert Has, cotten Half Leg to knee high - turned yellow - Crab grass high as a horses belly, middles never broke out since cotten was planted, Bennet verry little better, William Less grass, but poore cotten, they can't half crop?

17 Clear Hot morning, hoeing sugar cane. running scrapers a head of hoes, plantation perfectly clean, Excepting 3 days hoeing at Gibson place, some small Tossel grass in places about. ploughing young corn in bottoms, never worked since it was planted, weeds & grass & water nearly destroyed it, several hands quite sick, All of Sister Eliza children sick & herself all convalesant but one

18 Few clouds in the East Verry Hot, never saw negros appear to suffer more from heat - great many sick - several quite sick

19 Cloudy verry warm, sprinkle rain Last night, ploughing Penrice field, 15 ploughs. six scrapers before the hoes at Gibson place, Cotten verry fine - only thing against my crop "if any thing" rather thick in few places, Large well Bolled for its age & well branched & Loaded with forms. one Small crib full of corn, one fourth of small crib - & one fourth of Large crib of sucked corn, as hard rain as ever fell at 5 O<sup>k</sup> - too wet to hoe or plough

20 Damp cloudy morning, all hands at Gibson place. 8 women spinning, "sucklers &c" wind & rain yesterday broke down great deal of cotten, fearfull my cotten is too Large.

21 Cloudy damp morning, ploughing young cotten. Ruffin rode over my crop this morning - thinks it the Best crop he ever saw. from hip to over head high 1<sup>st</sup> planting. 100 acres young cotten 1/2 thigh to shoulder high, welled Set Bolled & formed, my crop by far the Best I've seen - and only crop as far as I can Learn that is not suffering from grass.

22 Few clouds verry warm - went drawing the sein - gave the negro<sup>s</sup> a dinner, two negro came near being drowned, Israel got over his head & was under some minutes D. Nat attempted or Ben first Isreal carried him under, he broke loose Nat then went after him. Isreal rose nearly Exhausted & caught him round the neck, & carried him under, as I thought both were drowned, Ben Being a Brother of Nat, seeing the Blubering made in fortunately they rose, Nats mouth barely out of the water. Isreal still choking him, Ben seized their hands & others on shore his thus was Enabled to save, Isreal seemed not to be hurt in the Least, & must certainly been under 10 minutes, so thinks several persons that witnissed it besides myself

23 Clear warm day, great Sick negros to day, Mostly growing out of their frolick yesterday

24 Clear verry sultry morning, 6 scrapers running, 14 ploughs. Seven sick. hoeing new Land above. some Tossel grass at the Edges of the Limbs, ploughing young cotten at Gibson place - since dinner, scrapers running below the Quarter, 6 negros verry sick

25 Clear verry hot sultry morning Little negro died Last night. the honest candid & Likely one on the Place - Hetty & Demps child Robert. sick two days before any thing was said about it. Buisey with their dinner saturday, neglected the child. Killed by worms producing inflammation mortification took place verry soon

26 Clear verry warm, Thundering this morning. Employed a negro Black smith to work for me, at \$1.50 pr. day, hoeing corn in Bottoms Been suffering for work, for three weakes, 5 hands sick, one child verry sick, Verry hard rain & wind from 4 'till 5 oclock, Sister Ann & D<sup>r</sup> King returned from Kentucky owing to Bad health of Sister Martha, sister Eliza & William here this evening

27 Clear warm morning, William Eliza & Rosalie & Amanda here last night. stoped scrapers. too wet, negros getting out of Geer for 5 days past. shower at noon

28 Cloudy warm, appearance of plenty rain, too much on upper part plantation, Gibson place suffering for ploughing & rain, Verry hard rain & wind at Gibson place

29 Damp Foggy morning, Verry warm - too wet to plough at Gibson place yesterday after dinner, ploughed the road, no rain above the Gin house home - D<sup>r</sup> King and Sister Ann here to day, Verry hard rain at 12 Oclock

30 Rainey day, hard as can pore down. D<sup>r</sup> Potter the Dentist here since last night, impudence of all Low Bred fools - stoped raining at one

31 Dark Cloudy morning, rain during last night, several showers Before Breakfast, making Levee in the Lane, & enlarging the Dam. some getting out timber, quite a number sick, Sale of Albert Barrow's property to day, "probate." hard rain at noon

August 1 Cloudy cool, East wind, Cotten shedding verry much owing in a great measure to being too thick, rotting, Entirely too much rain, several sick, more relaps<sup>es</sup> than I ever had - Misty at 11 O<sup>K</sup>. never in my Life saw cotten fall off as my crop has in 3 days past. Litterally ruined, nearly every thing off of it But few Bolles & young forms at top.

2 Clear October morning, quite cold fire comfortable,

cleared off yesterday evening, cool North wind all day all hands pulling Fodder ground too wet to plough ll hands sick.

3 Clear pleasant morning, all hands pulling Fodder, nearly all the corn shuck White, Several sick. Old Jarvis thinks my crop the Best in the Parish

4 Clear pleasant morning, Alls hands pulling & taking up Fodder, so far never saved Better, 5 hands sick this morning, Several children

5 Clear verry warm, got up this morning with swimming in my head got in a cold Bath. taken instantly with violent chill & . . . of Blood to the head. never felt so singular

6 Clear warm morning, rain at noon, some Better to day

7 Cloudy warm, threatning rain sprinkle at 2<sup>0</sup> much better to day only under effect of medicine.

8 Cloudy heavy Fogg, saved all old Land Fodder, William Joor sent for me yesterday noon Went to see him, found him verry sick, sit up with him all Last night, & sick my self, fell much wasted from it, great many negroes sick, Fever worms &c. sprinkle rain at 3 O. Mrs Joor & Mrs Flower returned from Woodville

9 Cloudy Damp & cool morning, never knew negros as hard to cure as they are this ummer. 15 ploughs running middle of row. hoeing young cotten, never saw cotten rotting as fast at this season of year, my Whole crop too thick, but for that would I think make 700 Bales good season from this out

10 Damp foggy morning, Verry hard rain on all Lower part plantation, none at the House. hoeing new ground above. & pulling some Fodder, shower this afternoon

11 Rainey morning, Returned from Mrs A. G Barrow. her son Bennet quite sick. William Joor not so well this morning, Old Capt. G. Howell died this morning, perhaps no one ever died less regretted Even his own children will rejoice

12 Cloudy warm - went down to Mrs A. G Barrow & M<sup>rs</sup> Joors Bennet H. Better, William verry ill, Violent conjection, dying from 12 O. this morning - shower rain

13 Cloudy Verry warm, returned from sitting up with W<sup>m</sup> Joor last night Left him as near dead as could be. seemed perfectly at him self & not at all conscious of his near approach to death, the doctor was still trying to restore him When I left at 6 O<sup>k</sup> should he be so fortunate as to restore him will be the most remarkable case possible - Dr King better to day came near Bleeding to death yesterday, Bled him self the day before - trying to avoid the chill by keeping warm - his arm began Bleeding,

they found him sinking sister hapneed to run her hand under cover & discovered it. with great difficulty restored him - William Joor died this morning 7 1/2 Ok

14 Cloudy Verry warm - Old Lucey verry sick, violent Billious attack, not attended to in time

15 Clear warm day. Went to Town

16 Cloudy Verry warm - by accident called by sister Martha<sup>s</sup> found Little James verry ill in fact fast approaching death, the Dr told them other wise, they seemed to think so. however it was not before they tried to rouse him & could'ent do so. Dr M<sup>c</sup>Kelvey Began then & in fact so much alarmed that just sanctioned every thing I proposed, by hard work with the assistance of Mrs S. Stirling got him through the night, we produced a reaction after every Dr had Left this morning Brought him back so far as to recognize every one, but was too far spent & died at 9 O. this morning, Turned verry cold at 6 P.M.

17 Cleared off since 7 O. last night quit cold, fire comfortable, Returned this morning to the funeral of poor Little James Turnbull, Seven years old

18 Clear Verry pleasant. Began Picking yesterday with women & childred men on the roade, Verry good picking, 135 lb picked from Breakfast till night - Clear pleasant, 8 men on the cause way - some making scaffold, others picking cotten Verry hard rain at 2 Oclock.

19 Clear pleasant morning, worked road yesterday evening out to Town road - working road in field Mrs Frazier came down from Woodville - picking cotten since dinner, cotten at Gibson place, good picking weather from this time will make more than ever did, too much rain on home place, & too thick

20 Cloudy cool morning - Four Bales picked, Rosalie & Amanda with Miss Crab rode over this evening on Horse Back

21 Smokey cold morning, good picking - 54 hands picking cotten day, 12 on road 2 sawing

22 Hazy cold morning, thick clothes comfortable. All hands on the roade, Finished it.

23 Clear cold night & morning all hands picking Cotten, Av<sup>n</sup> 124<sup>lb</sup> 58 pickers two sawing two carts hauling several sick

24 Clear cold night & morning, every appearance of Indian summer, one more added to the family this morning, a son - Mrs. Frazier returned to Woodville to day. several sick, picking at Gibson place Cotten much better their than at home place tho not as well open. Lower corner verry fine

cotten & new ground both better than Last year. M<sup>r</sup> Potter of E. Feliciana here this evening - intends Establishing him self in the city as Weigher of cotten as direct agent from the Planter

25 Clear Verry warm, Baby verry sick, sent for Percey - William & Eliza here

26 Clear hot day, hoed 'till dinner Baby verry sick Torper of the Bowels, D<sup>r</sup> Deshiel here partner of Percey

27 Cloudy cool wind Early, sun verry hot. Baby seems much better since 2 O<sup>k</sup> last night, M<sup>r</sup> Hurlbert better. M<sup>r</sup> Burnes well. Son Clifford sick slight, verry hard rain at 3 O. M<sup>r</sup> Hurlbert quit sick.

28 Few clouds Wind N. East warm. Childred better, M<sup>r</sup> Hurlbert complains verry much, "thurst," &c. some hands digging out Gin race. picking cotten

29 Clear pleasant, Pressed 14 Bales to day, Baby better Clifford running about. Hurlbert nearly well - 4 hands in the swamp getting scaffold Boards - two sawing. 2 hawling

30 Hazy pleasant morning, raising gearing Beams for Press, Heard yesterday that Bennets J. wife was Expected to die, miscarraige, good many sick 17 Bales pressed

31 Clear pleasant morning, Wind South, never knew cotten to open as slow as it does. stalk verry Large & thick. Bolles not as close to the Body of the stalk as usual, more to the top & End of the Limbs, can form no idea how it will yeald, Leaves fallen off Earlier and faster than I ever saw, Lane place new ground fair cotten part of it good as ever it was Tobacco new ground one half fair other not midling, Gibson place & new ground adjoining it Better than ever it was, Penrice field some place tolerable, others verry inferior

September 1 Verry warm morning, Rain at 3 O<sup>k</sup> D<sup>r</sup> King & Sister came up to see the Baby

2 Few clouds verry warm dan - uncom- - - hard rain at 2 O<sup>k</sup> hard as could pore during the evening - creek quit high William sent here to night for the D<sup>r</sup> Cupping instruments Little Ruffin quite sick

3 Cloudy verry warm, rainey afternoon, M<sup>r</sup> Black & Robert called this morning

4 Damp cloudy morning, Worked roads in the field. Verry

hard rain at 10 <sup>Ok</sup> spinning since, putting sleepers in Gin house - pressing - Mrs A.G. Barrow & her sister Miss Ann Swift called this morning, James verry sick with Le Gripp Sent for Dr King - Mr Hurlburt still settled chronic attack of the Lungs. great many negroes quite sick. Old Anzy quite sick

5 Cloudy warm, James verry ill all yesterday & last night. much better this morning, hard rain from 11 till 3 oclock - too wet to pick cotten spinning

6 Cloudy cool Damp East wind, James still improving slight attack of chill this morning, Dr King called this morning, sister Eliza<sup>s</sup> Rosina verry ill, went to see Eliza<sup>s</sup> children. found them better, Turned quite cool wind East, picking Gibson place - no dry cotten to Gin 40 Bales Gined - 60 out

7 Cloudy Damp East wind James still mending - sale of A. G. Barrows Estate to day - as hard rain as ever fell at 3 <sup>Ok</sup>

8 Cloudy warm - too wet to pick cotten, spinning, working Lane - & roade - Went to Eliza<sup>s</sup> this evening

9 Cloudy Damp, John taken verry sick last night, returned from Eliza 9 Oclock - hard rain yesterday evening, sprinkle above Bennets - great many sick - Rosina Better When I left, Rosina worse this afternoon - Dr King called by

10 Few clouds warm morning, John not so well this morning. Effect of medicine I hope, never saw as dark a Tongue on any one. not much fured

11 Clear warm day cotten opening verry fast in two Last days children all convalescent.

12 Clear warm - hands not picking overly well - highest <sup>215</sup> young cotten 1<sup>st</sup> picking

13 Clear pleasant morning Gined none this week. running the trasher. started one Gin to day Seventy five Bales out.

14 Few clouds verry warm - Ben. Joor came down yesterday

15 Damp cloudy morning, cleared off since dinner, I have verry Bad pain in my hip & one side & small of Back, great difficulty can get about, from cold - put up to day an iron screw press of Newells pattent. single screw, great many sick, threatning rain all day.

16 Heavy Fogg this morning, hands improving in picking - Cotten opened verry fast this week, my hip much better this morning



17 Cloudy heavy rain<sup>s</sup> below - All hands trashing cotten to day, as punishment for picking trashy. told to pick it clean.

18 Few clouds in the East, verry hot night & morning, Levi went to Town with Load of cotten Saturday Killed his best ox from heat, over driving - uncom-m hard rain & wind at 3 Oclock, wet nearly every place about the Gin house. somethng over 100 Bales out small crib two thirds full of old corn - pulling up dirt round gns Gin house since 4 Ok

19 Clear Verry pleasant morning, spinning, working Lane &c. too wet to pick cotten Early this morning, Cleared off Last night, D.<sup>r</sup> King called to day. informs me that Robert J. Barrows child died this morning, will go verry hard with Robert owing greatly to his peculiar state of health - only child, owing I think to their manner of treating children "irregular" D.<sup>r</sup> Gee & D.<sup>r</sup> Percey attended it

20 Clear pleasant morning, Heavy rains all around for the first time & not here - W<sup>m</sup> Munson here. Miss Swift Better to day

21 Few clouds Verry warm - wind East. picking this side of Little creek trashy from the rain on Monday, immense deal of cotten rotten from bottom to top of stalks - Started one Gin new Gin house yesterday

22 Cloudy Sprinkle rain at day Light, warm, wind East.  
4 women trashing cotten

23 Cloudy warm, hard shower at 12 oclock - went to picking cotten after Breakfast & again at 2 Oclock

24 Damp cloudy morning wind still from the East, been so for nearly a month past, Capt. Lawent<sup>s</sup> boat the Clipper N<sup>o</sup>1 Blew up on the 22<sup>d</sup> at Bayou Sara Killed nearly all on Board - throwing some persons nearly a mile others threw walls &c. one man threw Bakers hotel wall on a Bed remained sensible for several hours after, Capt, L. Escaped unhurt, all forward of the Wheels blowed off, several houses ruined by falling of the Engine on them &c.

25 Some What cloudy verry warm day for Sept. Several verry sick verry sick negros, M.<sup>r</sup> Burnes sick

26 Clear verry warm - picking at Gibson<sup>s</sup> place - never saw prettier picking, & by far the Best of this season - in fact the only tolerable &c. pressed one Bale of 500<sup>lb</sup> in my new press. Early came to peices - strengthening &c.

27 Cloudy cool North East wind pressing with three convalescent hands on my new press - does not come up to my expectations tho much faster than any I ever had or perhaps saw. hard rain at Gibson place 2 O<sup>k</sup> & Light rain of 1/2 hour here too wet to pick cotten

28 Clear cool East wind picking at Gibson<sup>s</sup>. cotten verry wet, can't get a Clear sunny day to dry cotten sufficient for good ginning &c.

29 Cloudy several showers during the morning. hard rain at Gibson place - 20 Bales wet cotten

30 Raining & verry warm, sun shining in the East. women spinning, men moving cotten & pressing - Verry hard rains during the day

October 1 Cool Cloudy morning, Verry warm after 10 O<sup>k</sup> over one hundred & fifty Bales out - Eighty one pressed in N<sup>o</sup> - 90 Gined

2 Cloudy warm morning, verry hard rain at noon

3 Cloudy, several before 10 Oclock. picking Cotten since, hauling Cotten to Rats. Landing, 20 Bales wet cotten on hand, some on scaffold week

4 Cloudy Cool Fall morning, Several Sick, Cotten verry much injured, will be verry short crop<sup>s</sup> made, price improving, sold 8 Bales at 9 <sup>c</sup> corn - cotten, a short crop no doubt will run it up to 12<sup>c</sup> or 14<sup>c</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Burnes finished working for me - Amt. of \$140

5 Cloudy verry warm. Raining verry hard from 9 till 12

6 Cloudy verry warm - 100 Bales pressed, More than 120 Bales behind the Last two years - Cotten growing finely on the scaffolds. Verry hard rain at 11 Oclock from the South West, Women spinning men trashing cotten, M<sup>r</sup> Burnes Left here this evening, for Fort Adams, 54 Bales hauled off

7 Raining verry hard since midnight, Wind out of the East for once, from the West, turning cool - spinning trashing cotten &c. Cut my leg six inches below the knee with the Ad.'s on the Bone with all my force through the edge of Female, &c. verry pain full last night, Last accounts from New Orleans & Europe still more encouraging for the Cotten planter - two Gins up in New Gin house, run finely, Trasher running in the old one - Raining uncom--- hard at 12 O. Wind verry cold & hard from the North

8 Clear cold October morning - Verry Fogg prevented Frost, 4 months to day since the Bad weather Began, yesterday evening 1<sup>st</sup> time the Sun has Set clear since 8<sup>th</sup> June

9 Clear pleasant day, Went to Town. Verry dull & poor looking place

10 Clear quit cold morning - several Sick, had Fever myself Last night, from my leg no doubt.

11 Taken with coldness & Fever during Last night, & to day at one O<sup>k</sup> with violent conjection - numbness of arms & Legs - & my Tongue stiff & delirious. Ruffin came & made D<sup>r</sup> Deshield Bleed me all that saved my life - all agree I must have died if a second chill returned, gave me 60 grains of Quinine in 4 hours. Large or in fact 3 times as much as generally given, can say now never was sick Before

12 Verry Bad to night perfectly Def 'D<sup>r</sup> King attending me since yesterday 3 Oclock

13 Some better - suffering Quinine

14 Verry sick to day reaction from Medicin

15 frost Light Great thirst all last night & Fever. feet Burning up - better since day Light

16 Convalescent but perfectly prostrated

17 Passed Bad night Last night - sitting up can Barely walk, all this time this most Beautifull & delightfull weather- Several Light frost - Record all back to the 10<sup>th</sup> to day, find it verry difficult to write, much better this evening - Verry much gratified at the attention of my friends, Could not of Expected as much, from as many &c.

18 Few clouds since morning - quite cool - Mrs Joor here last night. Verry sickly above, Able to walk about the house to day - rode to the Gin house this evening in the Buggy Verry disagreeable

19 Clear pleasant Fall day - Caught a runaway yesterday. came to the hands Belongs to M<sup>r</sup> Wederstrand, pretended to be looking for Uncle Bat<sup>s</sup> - I do not feel as well this morning as I expected, My Leg Looks Badly, want of attention during my illness. Cotten opening very fast.

20 Clear pleasant day - With pain in my side this morning "Liver" Av<sup>d</sup> to day 180

21 Cloudy pleasant. threatning rain -picking verry good weights

22 Raining verry hard at 8 O<sup>k</sup> - stoped raining at 12. Cloudy since wind East. D: King here

23 Cloudy Verry warm, Sun out at intervals, Picking at Gibson place - for weight - rotten and as White as can be

24 Damp cloudy & hot day - Hawling cotten, between 225 & 250 Bales out. 146 pressed in N<sup>o</sup> ground off of new corn this week - old Enough to feed on some time yet - hard rain at 40<sup>k</sup>

25 Cloudy verry hot, raining at 1/2 7 O<sup>k</sup>

26 Cloudy verry cold some rain during the day - Young Dalton the first Lawer at St. Francis ville died at Mrs Mathews Tuesday night of Yellow Fever Jos Joor his Partner taken yesterday morning or day before with the same Fever at Mrs Mathews started to see him Buggy Broke down - he is better to day

27 Cloudy verry cold - hard wind blowing from N. East. real winter day. Trashing cotten, spinning, &c. Feel more like getting well "to day" than since I got out of Bed - Cleared off verry cold after 10 O. Went down to see Joe Joor at Mrs Mathews, was taken with chill & Fever while there All from attempting to get there yesterday, Buggy shafts Came Loose got my feet wet going to Flowers & returning

November 2 Clear pleasant day, Will make one effort to get out to day for the first time since 28 Oct. now Labouring under Chronic Dyspepsia of chest, pretty well used up, Hands not doing much lately just got shoes from N. Orleans 80c pr pare & 87 1/2c pact - rode to the Gin house in my Buggy verry pleasant out. 8 hands trashing after the Trasher to keep one Gin running - 260 or "upwards" Bales out in N<sup>o</sup> 169 Pressed in N<sup>o</sup> 195 Ginned

3 Clear pleasant frosty morning, & not so well this morning- seems I am in verry delicate situation - Dyspepsia in its worst form - Am as poore as can be. verry foul tongue, no appetite &c. hands picking verry well

4 Few clouds warm - went over to Ruffins driving, rode in my Buggy poor hunt. staid all night at Ruffins

5 Raining Light shower at day Light. returned home this morning, Verry warm, Rece<sup>d</sup> this morning from A Ledoux & co the most Liberal Letter for this many a day - offering to renew with me the an<sup>c</sup> of my acct. &c.

6 Damp cloudy morning, wind East. put up 18 Hogs yesterday to fatten, have changed my opinion of the Berkshire hogs, Poore breeders, Let the Buzzards Eat evry pig - rainy day

7 Dark cloudy morning, Wind Verry cold & blowing verry hard from N. East. hard rain in the night, I think myself much better, My Tongue still verry foul Cleared off since noon

8 Clear verry cold morning, digging Potatoes since yesterday. Never saw them turn out as few Eating ones great many plantings, M<sup>r</sup>. Hornsby staid here Last night has a patent for making mills grind corn & cobs up into meal, intend fixing myne - price \$40 - Mrs Joer called this morning - 203 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup>

9 Cloudy summer day - Finished digging Potatoes - Robert H. called to day Verry much improved from his trip to the North

10 Dark Foggy & verry hot morning, picking cotton at Gibson place

11 Verry cool wind from the North, hard rain last night - Verry unwell after returning from Fox hunt. B J & wife here

12 Cloudy verry cold N. East wind at 4 O<sup>k</sup> taken with chilliness & Fever, for fear of ice tonight started all hands to cutting sugar cane - since dinner

13 Clear cold morning, taken verry sick. hard chill & fever all day, sent for D<sup>r</sup>. King, cloudy threatning rain after noon

14 Cloudy warm took 40 g<sup>r</sup>. Quinine this morning missed chill & fever head verry much effected by Quinine

15 Cloudy summer day, rain to day Feele much better to day, in facy better or more clear of disease than since my 1<sup>st</sup>. attack - King sent me a mixture to take at 7 O. took it & never was so out done in my Life nearly killed me vomiting & purging me till 3 O a. m. he & Ruffin got here & finally relieved me, there was no necessity for my taken any medicin, tho King had no idea it would act as it did owing to my peculiar situation, week stomach &c. Blue pill & Turpentine

16 Feel easy but prostrated - & knocked back O verry warm & plenty of rain, improved this evening

17 Raining all night & this morning. Verry late - 12 O day, but verry warm, intend taking coffee & eating as usual

as I want been starving & dieting on Bread crackers & water 'till I am certain it has caused both of my relapse<sup>s</sup>. Most retched weather, will make no crop & at that more than any one I hear off - do not think any one will make 7 Bales to the Hand - 5 weeks and three days since I was taken sick - hope now I may recover &c. to morrow Ruffin & others are going up to camp out & hunt up Red river & some Bayou emptying in R R -intended going but for my Relapse - cleared off fine summer afternoon

18 Damp Foggy morning - pulled some corn yesterday, All the shuck, on it for oxen

19 Cloudy pleasant morning, wind East. have never in my life knew or heard of just such a year, or any one to Compare with this - day before yesterday Cleared off pleasant & wind from the North. Sun set Clear & after one week<sup>s</sup> bad weather, & now Cloudy threatning rain, some rain Last night, I am reduced to a skeleton, Constant foul Tongue & no appetite.

20 Clear and pleasant a spring-Like morning as ever seen - picking cotten at Gibson place. stoped Ginning all hands to picking, to Let the trash rot more in cotten

21 Few clouds spring morning - warm, hauling cotten to Rat<sup>s</sup> Landing, 227 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup>, - 320 out in N<sup>o</sup>, great deal of cotten open at G<sup>s</sup> place

22 Cloudy Damp, Went to Turnbulls family &c. James Flower j. down with Yellow Fever

23 Dark, cloudy morning, hard Wind from South, hard rain at Eleven O<sup>h</sup> returned Home this morning, feel much better than I have felt since first taken sick, or in seven weeks. J Flower better to day

24 Cloudy verry warm - Taken with diarreha yesterday evening, D<sup>r</sup> King to see me to day. Verry sick all last night Fever & Bowel &c. rain - rain all night

25 Cloudy & rain at 11 O. better to day but verry weak.

26 Clear at day light & cold - warm before night & threatning rain - better & little Clear of uneasiness in Bowels

27 Cloudy hot day & rainey James Flower j<sup>ur</sup> died on the night of the 25 - last Saturday

28 Verry hard rain at 7 O. & no appearance of stopping

29 Raining uncom--- hard at 7 O - sitting up to day, & recorded back to 23<sup>d</sup> verry weake

30 Cold steady rain since yesterday morning, wind got round to the East, it appears impossible for it to remain 12 hours in one Quarter, near constant rain since the 8 of June or since Last February ruining to What cotton is in the field & corn nearly et up by weavles - Rested better last night than I've done in two months - in hopes my system has at last recovered from anything like conjection or Dyspepsia - men trashing cotton, women spinning - Best knows from Eorupe than for many a day past, ratification of the treaty with China - thus opening an immense trade for cotton Eaqual to the consumption at present - tho cotton has not as yet felt the Benifit here owing to the impression that there will be an avreage crop & the uncom-<sup>n</sup> Large one last year - by January the fact of a short crop will be known & must go up to a high price - at any rate another crop must pay as well - Ive sold this year so far from 7 1/4 to 9¢ - if able would not ship a Bale 'till January - my crop will fall short of last year 200 Bales I fear from present prospects

December 1 Cold steady rain since Tuesday - I am mending slowly. confined "still" to a warm dry room - and mint Juleps at 11<sup>0</sup> - must take me several months to regain my usual health & strength - Two hundred & Fifty Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup>. 258 or 60 Gined

2 Clear cold day. I feel much better this morning, This afternoon  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 4 Oclock my two Gin Houses took fire, "adjoining" & in ten minutes or Less were one solid sheet of Fire, over 100 Bales of Cotton Burned, 40 Pressed about 5 Gined 60 in Seed. Robt. J. B Jno C Joor & D<sup>r</sup> King hapened here to see me & witnissed it from the Beginning - with difficulty Fill got out, mules singed - Caught from Brush. presumed. Greased but few minutes Before, Essex had staped to the mill few feet off - Hartlet Ginning, - the second Gin House I've had burnt. Being confined to my room makes it worse on me - a severe Loss at this time - Have felt in better spirits for 6 weeks past than for 6 years past - & thought two more crops would set me easy, how uncertain are things in this world - a Loss of \$8000 or more

3 Clear Freezing night & ice this morning & the only White frost this Winter - put an End to Yellow Fever Mrs James Flower came with Emily - is really distressing to see so young and lively a widow

4 Cloudy Damp & cool, appearance of rain, pulling corn - 8 hands getting timber for mill & Gin House Mrs Joor came down Last night

5 Cloudy Damp, Windy & cool - Caroline Flower returned to Mrs Mathews with her Mother - wind N. East, I am still mending, on mint Juleps & nitric Acid

6 Raining hard since midnight Ruffin here to day, makes Verry short crop, as evry one does - turned cold at Dark

7 Cloudy quit cold this morning - gathering corn - number of hands pretending to be sick. knowing I am not able to go out as yet

8 Cloudy cold East wind - Several pretending Sick - I am still improving - Living in clover, on Boiled milk & Broiled Birds & old Whiskey Juleps - sent to Town with cart "L. Dave" got M<sup>r</sup>. Hurlburt to get and meet him and search for Whiskey. knowing I was unable to get out would certainly Bring some - found two Gallons - seemed much surprised that M<sup>r</sup>. Hurlburt should offer to interfere in a case like that - When able intend making several of them suffer for their taking advantane of sickness to act the rascal - Patience and him in particular - she pretending to rising on her hip for several days or in fact for 10 days past & no sign of any thing the matter

9 Cloudy turning warmer - am improving. I think more so than since my first attack - making road through to the Lane place "Ruffins" to Hawl my cotten there to Gin & to grind. Corn turning out so far verry finely

10 Few clouds damp morning. wind South - D<sup>r</sup> King here Last night - Began taking Sheldon "Stoutons" Bitters this morning - made all women Excepting Lize spin me 6 cuts - Lize the only one that ever does her task - repairing Ruffins mill at Lane place to grind at - & Gin their &c.

11 Raining hard since midnight & verry warm - stoped raining at noon. Miles Kelly called by with saddle Horses several verry fine ones - Robt. J. B here bought small mare Beautifull & rides finely - number of Drovers seemed to pitch for me to night

12 Cloudy Verry cold - Cleared off at 1 O<sup>k</sup>. Drovers here all night Bought as fine a Brown horse from Kelly as I ever saw, made uncom-n well from the ground up rides well, in fact perfect as to forms, Both for Beauty & service - pace a mile in 3 minutes & the only fast pacer I ever saw that rode well slow - price \$200 1<sup>st</sup> March next if I like him by that time - B. J. B. here this morning purchased of Kelly verry fine Buggy Horse

13 Clear verry cold morning, cloudy after two oclock -



Rosalie & Amda here to day, Emily off to Town till verry late - rode as far as the Burnt Gin house this morning, feel much better, in fact well to What I've ever felt since attack

14 Cloudy threatning rain - Mrs Haile came down

15 Raining last night Cloudy damp this morning - Mrs Haile returned to Woodville - all four of my cribs full of corn, & 20 loads to haul - not as closely slip shucked as usual - cotten picking now verry trashy - the waggon Loaded with corn ran over Little Daves arm & broke it between the Elbow & wrist - "yesterday" - Began raining at 2 oclock "hard"

16 Raining as hard as it can from since yesterday - no luck in raising money through M<sup>r</sup> Mure, the English consul for New Orleans Raining very hard all day, Wind round to the North after 12 Oclock, Have never seen any year any ways like the present has been, raining constant since 8 June - And no appearance of ever stoping, About 30 Bales to pick, very rotten & trashy, improving very rapid in price  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$  since Beginning of this months now as high as  $11\%$  - for Best and no doubt but will be at 12 or 13 c by spring, Bright prospects for next year

17 Cloudy Damp and cool - rode round through by Ruffins & by Lane place on my new Horse. much pleased with him - Felt no fatigue from the ride, would do well but for my Bowels not regular too much action from debility Easily effected by dampness of the weather

18 Cloudy damp disagreeable day - am not so well this morning - pains in stomach & Bowels - Demps Laying up with sore Eyes - or Loosing his sight. no appearance of inflammation - L Dave arm not doing as well as I wish - steady cold rain from 10 oclock

19 Raining all Last night - and this morning. cold & disagreeable - not so well as I have been - D<sup>r</sup> King came up to day - to see L. Dave<sup>s</sup> arm & Demp<sup>s</sup> Eyes

20 Raining all last night - misty morning. never saw as Long continuation of Bad weather - Steady rain after dinner - D<sup>r</sup> King rode my new horse, very much pleased, wants him very much - hard rain at 3 O<sup>k</sup>

21 Misty Dark Cool & most Disagreeable morning

22 Cloudy damp morning - Cleared off at 11 Oclock. Like April day since - never saw a more welcome change - Bought

2 Kentucky Heiffers one uncom<sup>n</sup> arge 2 yr-old Bull - 3  
\$150 in 12 months

23 Clear morning, went Fox hunting this morning. first  
regular one this Fall, out 7 hours & stood it first rate

24 Clear and as delightfull day as ever I saw. Old Mrs  
Taylor died yesterday. the Mother of Mrs David Barrow

25 Clear delightfull morning D<sup>r</sup> King & several went out  
with me this morning Fox hunting, quite a number joined -  
Very fine hunt. run of 2 hours & caught.

26 Clear cold morning, Ruffin Brings much better news  
from the City - money plenty & Cotten still improving - Very  
dull Christmast

27 Clear quite cold morning - great many Fox hunting -  
no Luck - Verry much fatieged

28 Clear verry cold morning - Mrs Flower here

29 Clear pleasant day - W. H. B here - went down to Miss  
Swifts

30 Raining cold East wind - D<sup>r</sup> Curries here on<sup>s</sup> Business  
- a lot I sold his wife in Woodville belonging to Pa<sup>s</sup> Estate  
wants title &c.

31 Cloudy warm morning - rainy afternoon - Miss Swift  
here to day

1844

January 1 Yesterday Ended the most remarkable year in My recollection, more rain more sickness poorest Crops & general distress than any year know - this morning Cleared off at 9 O - raining very hard all night decidedly the most flattering change this morning than I've seen in 6 months cool wind from the West. picking Cotten - getting timber hawling Coal wood &c. hands seem in fine humour & all well - Excepting Demps with sore eyes & L Dave with Arm broke.

2 Clear cold day - wind North.

3 Clear very cold - N. wind - 4 hands getting Boards for mill & Gin house - Killing hogs - Emily went home with Miss M. Swift - Mrs. Flower here seems really in a very distressed situation alone & unprotected

4 Clear very cold - went over & gave Robt. H. overseer a perfect set too intended caning him - if he said any thing

5 Few clouds very cold

6 Raining - cold East wind M<sup>r</sup>. Linch called to day - Dennis Bynes came to Build my running Gear for Gin and mill

7 Damp. misty day - warm

8 Rainey morning. Women spinning, Some trashing cotten - Began Ginning at Ruffins to day - Bad day for so glorious a one - Gave Robert H B. rules for government of his negroes

9 Dark misty morning - hard rain at 11 O<sup>k</sup> went over to assist in Apparaising James Flower jr<sup>s</sup> property - Amounted to \$31.167.65<sup>c</sup> Land negroes &c.

10 Hard rain during the night & verry warm - rain after day light - D<sup>r</sup> King here since yesterday - tending on Demps with sore Eyes & Nat. B. diseased - &c. daughter Amanda little sick since yesterday - women stopping washes since dinner.

11 Cloudy warm wind East, picking cotton - hard rain at dark

12 Dark cloudy morning - wind South, rain during Last night - several negros with Pleurisy - Robert H overseer quit sick, sent here last night. Raining at 11 O<sup>k</sup> warm as summer weather - Dr King returned creeks up - he is as mad as a March hare - who could be otherwise such weather as this & no appearance of stopping raining at this moment & sun shining

13 Cloudy cool N. East wind

14 Cloudy Damp morning - hard rain at 3 O<sup>k</sup> & continued

15 Rainey day & verry hard since yesterday evening - considerable thunder and Lightning during last night & to day - turned cold since 12 O<sup>k</sup> hard rain all day - Dave Bartley verry ill from pleurisy - relapse & neglect of old Anica - the meanest old negro on Earth - women spinning - men and Boys trashing Cotton

16 Clear coldest day this season ice till late in the day Left Home for N. Orleans - old Howells place & negro<sup>s</sup> selling to day

27 Clear verry cold - Returned from N. Orleans - times better than they have been in 4 or 5 years some cotton as high as 11 1/4 c sold by A. Ledoux & Co money more plenty - at 10 to 15 pr cent pr annum

28 Clear Verry cold morning.

29 Clear cold morning - but most delightfull day - ploughing 6 days - 13 ploughs - 10 to day - Blacksmith "old Heren" here repairing - hawling cotton to Robt. H. B to Gin - Cotton selling in N. Orleans from 7 1/2 to 11 1/2 - times greatly improved - not quite as Easy to raise money as it was 3 weeks since - owing to heavy speculation in cotton, evry one anticipating great rise in the article - English buyers not in the market prices being above their limits - the belief in Eoruope is the crop of 1843 will amt. to 1800.000. But certainly will not - as soon as that fact is known cotton will rise greatly - or higher than since "37

30 Clear pleasant morning - Ruffins family here to day. sprinkle rain at 4 O<sup>k</sup>. 15 ploughs running

31 Cloudy pleasant. Hard rain at dusk

February 1 Cloudy warm morning

2 Cloudy Verry warm day - ploughing above 3 furrows for cotten Laping 1<sup>st</sup> furrow in new Land & wide rows. 15 ploughs "dowble"

3 Cloudy threatning rain - Went to Town, verry warm.

4 Cleared off wind from the West at 10 O<sup>k</sup> warm as April - saw one of my young hounds "Echo" climb up a tree this morning 14 feet catch a Fox & jump out with it into a hole of water in among the pack

5 Clear cool - But pleasant morning. attended the sale of James Flower jur sale of personal property. few things sold - I purchased one two horse waggon for \$33 - & one small desk for \$10 - raining slightly since 5 O. & dark

6 Clear in the North cool N. wind Ruffin & Robert J. here yesterday evening - wished me to negotiate a Loan through the Kentucky Banks by assistance of M<sup>r</sup> Kennedy of Louisville for three of us --\$50.000

7 Cloudy verry cold North wind

8 Cloudy verry cold

9 Few clouds quit cold Frosty morning - ploughing corn Land for cotten Laping - & 3 furrows. Bad ploughing from old crab grass - 18 ploughs running.

10 Cloudy verry cold disagreeable day

11 Clear cold Frosty morning. went driving verry Early no Luck

12 Cloudy pleasant day - ploughing old race track field for cotten

13 Few clouds pleasant. M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Routh died yesterday at her residence mouth of Red river - Buried at Mrs Wades to day - Leaving a husband & two children 11 & 14 yrs of age - Steubens & Rosealthia

14 Clear most Beautifull morning, L. Dave gone to work - arm well. hawling seed on corn Land - Women making fence - Sucklersspinning - 18 Double ploughs running - 4 Teams Ginning

15 Clear verry pleasant - went to Town in the carraige with W. H. B.

16 Clear cool & pleasant morning

17 Clear Frosty morning - went Deer hunting over to Ruffins Col Semple & Mayrant with me - killed one Deer

18 Cloudy or Hazy morning - Mr. Byrnes returned from New Orleans. Between 6 & 8000 Bales cotton burnt up at the upper cotton press

19 Clear spring day

20 Cloudy threatning rain. Began planting corn this morning. in new ground only

21 Cloudy appearance of rain - several sick. Jno Mayrant here. out Driving yesterday Bad luck for want of standers

22 Cleared off since day Break. Like spring - verry pleasant.

23 Clear verry pleasant day planted in all 120 acres of corn

24 Clear pleasant spring day - cool nights & morning few days past

25 Clear pleasant spring day went Driving in the swamp

26 Clear, but smokey morning - never saw more pleasant weather than we have had for two weeks past - Jno E. Barrow & Lady with Miss M Swift & Mrs A G Barrow spent to day here. & who should come but two D. Yankee<sup>s</sup> to see Mr. Hurlburt and the impudence of their section of country, gave them a hint to Leave that no southernor would mistake - ordered their horses Back - Left Home with family on a visit to Mr. Semple in Mi

27 Clear summer day - returned home this evening after dark

28 Clear summer day, Miss M. Swift & Emily gone to R. J. B. - ploughing at Gibson place - two days - 3 furrows. finished fencing yesterday. cleaning up bottoms for corn

29 Cloudy Early - threatned last night strong South wind - several sick negros. colds &c. hauled 14 Bales to the river to day

March 1 Cloudy warm damp morning - stoped running round to have the ploughs sharpened, breaking out middles in 50 acres for corn - first planted or all that is planted sprouting finely - several sick several light showers since noon

2 Dark cold & cloudy day. working at Clark place - verry hard rain last night, much wanted

3 Few clouds pleasant spring day - turned cold after noon

4 Cloudy verry cold North wind, ploughing Clark place three furrows for cotten - all finished at Home 3 & 4 furrows - several Verry Sick negros L. Betsy near Death I fear

5 Cloudy verry cold morning. D<sup>r</sup> King here this morning Betsy Better - Demp<sup>s</sup> will I fear loose his sight - and probably never recover his health, Mrs. Jno Joor & Mrs Flower here yesterday to spend the day - cotten on the decline in N. Orleans and rising in Eouroe, owing to heavy speculation in this Country now they are unable to hold on - a most distressing accident happened few day<sup>s</sup> since, below mouth of Red river, two S. Boats ran afoul, Desoto & Buckeye. the Latter sunk Destroying the Lives of over 60 persons - 3 cribs & one third of corn two small ones & one Large - &c. Bad weather for corn that was sprouting

6 Cloudy Damp cold East wind - sprinkling rain at 10 O<sup>k</sup> Breaking out middles at Clark place

7 Cloudy warm - great deal of rain fallen since yesterday noon - Breaking out middles to day Working on fence at Clark place ponds &c. ploughing since dinner - hard shower at 4 O<sup>k</sup>

8 Few clouds, sun warm - appearance of spring again

9 Cloudy pleasant North wind - 125 acres middles broke out to night - 18 Double No. 4 ploughs. Cleaning up the Quarter

10 Cloudy cold East wind - Mrs Joor Jno & his Lady here to night

11 Cloudy Damp morning - shower rain at 12 O<sup>k</sup> threatning rainey evening. planting 50 Acres of corn - 170 a<sup>s</sup> planted this evening - 140 Acres up tolerably well - Birds & coons very Bad - Mrs Joor & Mrs Flower here - Jno. Joore & Lady Left in the Buggy for Woodville with young infant & no nurse - several showers during the afternoon - Breaking out middles in race track piece - shallow owing to weak horses - not very material about the middles being very Deep - Dragged the sein in the Bottom field pond, one Draw only & caught 600 fish mostly catfish - Dem made and fish in it only one year. immense increase - Drew small part about one 10<sup>th</sup> of the pond - intend making a fish Lake of it

12 Steady rain greater part of Last night - Appearance of clearing off - verry warm this morning - finished cleaning up - crrying woods Earth in the Garden

13 Cloudy threatning rain - very warm. corn not all up from being covered too deep - Killing Birds with Nux vomica

14 Raining constant & very hard since Last evening - Very hard rain yesterday at 12<sup>0</sup>. made a Levy across the mouth of pond in bottom field - intend using it for two purposes - water for stock & Fishing, warm and no appearance of ceasing to rain

15 Cloudy - & cold wind from the North.

16 Cloudy verry cold N. wind

17 Clear Beautifull day - Frost Cold night & morning - Sun very pleasant - fearfull of Fruit & corn being much hurt by this morning<sup>s</sup> Frost

18 Clear Frosty morning

19 Clear spring morning - Went to Town - times dull. cotten falling or dull sale

20 Few clouds in the South. thin cool Breeze from South - do not like the Appearance of the weather this morning intended to plant Cotten to day - hawling 500 Bushel of cotten seed from Town - Finished hoeing "1<sup>st</sup> time" new ground corn. Finished Ginning at Robt. H.B. yesterday - 20 Double ploughs running to day

21 Clear very cold N. Wind - Began planting cotten this morning - quit - too cold - Finished Breaking out all the middles above & at Gibson place

22 Smokey Looking morning - not as cold as yesterday. replanting corn - Last planting not up - negro woman Patience very sick Billicious pleurisy - & 3 days sick before let it be known her habit. & been severely Whiped for it to no effect doubtfull if she gets over it, caught this time - unco<sup>n</sup> mean

23 Clear very cold - wind prevented severe frost last night - planting cotten since yesterday dinner dropping it 2 feet to 30 inches

24 Clear very cold - Frosty morning coldest morning Excepting 3 this winter - corn Looked yesterday like Hot water poored on it. ground being uncom<sup>n</sup> dry or would do no great deal new damage Fruit &c. the Boys with Clifford on horse Back took all my hounds Rabbit hunting caught & killed 28



25 Smokey cool mornin; - planting cotton 5 ploughs - dropping new & good Land 30 inches - China trees in Blume - Locust Bluming ten days ago three weeks earlier than I ever knew them owing to no winter has the appearance of an early spring from the trees - but the weather still Backward - corn Leaves killed & Looks retched

26 Cloudy damp East wind - 15 acres cotton planted by 8 O. to day - Finished Breaking out middles this morning by 9 O<sup>k</sup> Breaking up bottoms for corn - 1/2 days ploughing middles at the Clark place. Martins have not made their appearance yet 15 days so far behind their Latest time to my knowledge. several cool showers after 3 O<sup>k</sup>

27 Cloudy warm & Damp morning threatening rain - planting cotton in new ground this side Little creek, ploughing corn first time. 2 furrows. Several persons have scraped some cotton - no doubt the Last frost has killed it all - Appearance of dry weather since 4 O<sup>k</sup> wind cool S. west wind

28 Damp Cloudy morning. 7 Harrows planting Cotton - Bad planting in corn Land grass not rotted since Beded up. running Double harrows before opening - in corn Land

29 remarkable day - Clear pleasant spring morning - Cool West wind after Breakfast. turning colder at dinner - real winter at 5 Oclock, had to quit work - so sudden was the change hard stormy wind from the North. & cloudy - women Lize left the field well & just as she reached her house was taken with violent pain in Breast & right side Pleurisy "Bilious" D<sup>r</sup> King calls it Nemonia

30 Cloudy very cold N. wind, too cold for hands to work - stoped - Coldest day I've felt this year. Some snow early this morning

31 Clear very Cold Frosty morning - real winter weather must certainly destroy most of the Fruit - and all the cotton that was up - none for me - corn killed down - ice here & ice at several places in the Parish

April 1 Clear Light Frost - sent Amanda "Ruffins" an empty Box for April Fool women bringing woods Earth in the garden - Ploughing up Bottoms for corn - & running double harrows over Last planting of corn - 5 negros with Severe Pleurisy. several others Lingerin Amanda was fooled & wrote to Robt J. that I was Very ill & to meet Ruffin here - his being sick prevented some more fun - Mary wrote word to know the true situation of my health & Robert would Come as soon as the chill Left him - sent word better &c.

2 Clear pleasant spring day D<sup>r</sup> King here to see my sick

ones 10 in Number with Pleurisy & coughs. it seems I am never to escape the Epidemics for half the place seems sick - fearful will Loose one child & one grown man &c.

3 Clear pleasant day. D<sup>r</sup> King returned this morning all the sick ones better - W<sup>m</sup> H. here

4 Cloudy wind East & warm, D<sup>r</sup> White of Mi. here Last night one of or as honest a man as ever Lived - much pleased to see him - Hard rain in the South. sprinkle here at dark

5 Cloudy threatening rain. Very warm - put as many planting cotten as could start. the Last Frosty morning killed great deal of my corn, have to replant some & plough up some

6 Damp warm & cloudy morning - Misty rain yesterday evening 5 O<sup>k</sup>. several very sick negro<sup>s</sup>. an Epidemic influenza like Pleurisy & every thing else combined

7 Damp warm morning

8 Fine showers Last night - Few clouds this morning - pleasant spring morning - negros Better this morning - Martins made their appearance this morning first this season - near a month Later than I ever knew them - usually from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12 of March

9 Cloudy warm morning - D<sup>r</sup> King here to see several very sick negros - Old Burnes sick - tired to death of his slow movements towards finishing my mill &c. New ground to plant over killed by Frost. never was so out done in my life Finished planting Cotten all home - yesterday dinner - planting Clark place to day. more severe cases of sickness than I ever had - thought the Scarlet Fever Bad - sick my self - Potatoes to plant - corn to hoe & plough cotten just Beginning to come up - to conclud wish evry one I've had to pay money for was in Hell

10 Cloudy warm - planting new ground over in corn entirely killed by Frost - making Potatoe ridges & planting since dinner

11 Dark cloudy & Damp morning, Jenney son "old Bartley" as he was com<sup>n</sup>ly called died Last night of this Epedimic here - strangled from matter collecting in throat & Lungs - several showers since dinner

12 Cloudy Damp & warm morning - Barring off cotten two Furrows cotten not up intend running two more a head of hoes &c. several showers after dinner - stoped the ploughs

13 Dark Damp & cloudy morning two Gent<sup>s</sup> to see M<sup>r</sup>

Hurlburt Last night - young Evans one & the most conceited ass I ever knew - Robt. H. B here, 'tis said he is to marry Mary Barrow shortly - Most Beautifull woman but very Fickle minded stoped planting Potatoes - hoeing corn all hands - cotten corn coming up in places - Several new cases of the Epidemic - corn above Looks well again

14 Dark cloudy morning - J Joor here - D<sup>r</sup> King called by this morning - Met with quit an adventure last night among mules Jenneys &c. Judge Halen of Atakapas here to day

15 Dark cloudy morning every appearance of rain - one new case of sickness this morning one very ill - heavy clouds & rain in the South - Barring of cotten come up in spots - 18 ploughs - worked piece of corn this side Little creek, seeding corn P R new ground since dinner

16 Cloudy pleasant South East wind, very much in want of rain - Both corn and cotten - Shower at 5 O<sup>k</sup>.

17 Cloudy pleasant - Fine rain Last night - made fine hoeing hoing & ploughing P. R new ground corn - Cool Breeze from the North at 6 O.

18 Cloudy cool morning - Lightning in the East last night - Quite unwell myself effect of the Epidemic I think Bowels &c.

19 Cloudy disagreeable morning - threatening rain - M<sup>r</sup> Turnbulls negros are cutting up a great many shines - 16 ran off & have defied him - are well armed killed two of his dogs while in pursuite of them - all this grows out of his having them preached to for 4 or 5 years past - greatest piece of foolishness any one every guilty of no true Christianity among the Church going Whites - & how Expect to Preach moral-ity among a set ignorant beings - proper discipline may improve them and make them better - so long as the same course & interest is kept up - &c.

20 Clear cool morning. several Very Sick negro<sup>s</sup> - Went Fishing to Rat<sup>s</sup> Lake

21 Cloudy cool morning - Negros better

22 Cloudy warm morning - Mrs Joor & Mrs Flower came from Woodville Last night - Scraping cotten since Breakfast - 20 good hands

23 Cloudy very warm - L Hannah very ill last night. scraping cotten one side or through at one Lick

24 Cloudy Hot morning - negro<sup>s</sup> better - one new case this morning - raising post for Gin House

25 Damp Foggy morning - stoped 10 ploughs to scrape cotten & replant - 11 Ploughs Barring off - two carpenters working at Gin House & one hand - all others scraping Cotten

26 Cloudy Verry warm morning - Dr King here since Last night his horse ran off with him & Buggy. Left him with me to dispose of - &c. scraping race trake cut. best stand on upper side place

27 Cloudy Verry warm - Went Below Bennet J. & Back of the French settlement Fishing James & John along never had better sport - Very Large Lake & continuation of Lakes for 10 or more miles - Caught in few hours 400

28 Cloudy threatning rain shower rain at 4 O<sup>k</sup>

29 Few clouds Cool North wind - Had quite a Fight on the Lot this morning - two house girls, Mary & Sarah

30 Cloudy Very warm sprinkle rain at 5 O<sup>k</sup>

May 1 Few clouds. pleasant wind from the South, scraping cotten at G<sup>ns</sup> Barring off Clark place 10 ploughs. My corn looks Very Badly for want of proper work

2 Cloudy Damp morning Judge Hallern here since Monday. a perfect Poke easy - knows evry Body evry Where - & does not seem as if he ever done much. thinks of settling in B. Sarah - Lawer

3 Cloudy. Very warm day - Finished Barring off cotten yesterday, Finished scraping Gibson place by . . . O<sup>k</sup>96 ploughing corn second time, 12 ploughs, it looks badly Very much in want of rain - attended Muster to day poor turn out.

4 Cloudy Very warm - went Fishing to Rat<sup>s</sup> Lake. Caught great many. Brought home in the waggon "in Barrels" 50 fine Perch alive put in the Pond

5 Cloudy cool wind - rain in the swamp yesterday, sprinkle here - never in my Life had or saw as Bad a stand of cotten as I have - replant Baked & rotten, took A Barrow<sup>s</sup> runaway Home - after seeing my neighbours crops am perfectly disgusted with evry thing on the place, And sincerely wish evry rascal & persons causing me to be in Debt in Hell riding a red hot iron

Bennet H. Barrow

6 Cloudy Very Hot. Went to Town as Juror. got on the Grand jury as Foreman against my wish &c.

7 Returned Home this morning fine rain over the creek sprinkle here & at D Barrows Home place - staid there last night - attend or was Looker on yesterday at a Democratic radical meeting in Town

8 Clear Very warm day - returned to Town on the Grand Jury - Found a true Bill against Young Baker for Killing his Father in Law

9 Clear Very hot & dry evry thing Burning up, corn suffering very much

10 Clear hot day. hoeing corn since Wednesday moulding cotten one furrow since Wednesday. stoped & ploughing corn this morning.

11 Clear Very hot day

12 Clear very hot. Barring off young corn in Bottoms since Friday evening - Building shed for corn & cobb grinder - went Fishing yesterday in Big Bayou Sarah - Emily & Miss Swift along no Luck Enough to Eat. &c.

13 Cloudy Very hot day

14 Clear Very hot. hilling cotten went to Town - got through with the Grand Jury

15 Clear not as can well be - Finished hoeing young corn in bottoms, Hilling cotten since yesterday evening - never had a worse prospect for a crop. one fine stalk & dozen mean ones no regular good cotten

16 Clear very hot day Went to Town

17 Clear very warm - Robt. H. B here last night

18 Clear Very hot & dry - Went Fishing with the Boys to Rat<sup>s</sup> Lake - Caught great many

19 Cloudy warm South wind

20 Cloudy Very warm - threatning rain. Moulding cotten at Gibson place - Best & most regular Cotten I have - I have the poorest Looking crop in this neighbourhood - irregular - from 2 inches to 1/2 Leg within 20 feet frequently. great many forms on some stalks. corn as good & much better than most all I've seen - grinding cobb & corn in Back mill to feed horses colts &c. rain at Dark

21 Dark cloudy morning, Fine shower Last night - quit cool at Dark - wind North. Miss M. Swift came up Last evening to go fishing intended to have a Fish fry to day, the Bad appearance of this morning prevented, fine shower for cotten at 8 O<sup>k</sup> scraped Potatoes - ground in fine order for working - Barely Laid the dust in corn Land

22 Cool. cloudy morning, quite unwell since yesterday. sudden change in the weather - hilling or Leveling through cotten at Gibson place. 4 hands in the swamp getting Boards for Gin house

23 Clear pleasant morning Quite sick last night Fever &c. 2 small cribs of corn - Began using out of one of them this morning - moulding cotten at Clark place - Finished all home yesterday 9 O<sup>k</sup> ran one furrow round young corn & broke out middles in part of ground this side of Little creek. D Barrow sent this morning for a Mutton for the wedding to night

24 Few clouds Very warm - saw Robert H. Barrow married to Mary E. Barrow Last night sufficient number there to make it gay - all seemed dull & Quakerish - son James was taken with fever yesterday, feeling so badly for three days past. sprinkle rain here yesterday evening - sprinkle rain at Dark the Trout Bit Very well in my pond this evening

25 Cloudy Very warm. James Better "convalescent". shower at sun set. Am still very unwell - Finished hilling cotten by 3 O except Clark place Blossoms Holliday.

26 Cloudy warm & Damp morning - Appearance of rainy day . several showers during the day. the Lice have nearly ruined part of my crop. all the corn Land above very much Eaten, stoped growing, corn wants a good soaking rain

27 Cloudy pleasant day, hilling Clark field. cotten there Looks very healthy. from 6 to 18 inches high - irregular stand, hawling Boards out of the Swamp, river rising very fast, sucklers working sugar cane - ploughing corn evry other row, 20 ploughs

28 Cloudy pleasant. Finished hilling Clark place by 1/2 5 O<sup>k</sup>. yesterday evening - started two Deer round the field - had a very hard to try & get a short, hoeing young corn in bottoms, Fine shower at 10. hard shower at 11 1/2 - most rain that has fallen since it Began this wet spell

29 Raining constant since last evening 6 O<sup>k</sup> & very hard - pond in front Lot Broke round the End or would have run over & probably Broken through - Fever came on me yesterday 12 O<sup>k</sup> &

remained on 'till near day light this morning. over 14 hours. from my severe ride the day before - ventured too soon - my misfortune - feel the Least well must go - Bridge taken off by high water on Little Creek - dam in Bottom field broken - putting more dirt to house lot Dam - Men raising Gin House

30 Clear cool S. west wind. hoeing cotten since Breakfast raising Gin House, tie vines & crab grass as thick as can be. ground very wet & glazed over

31 Clear cool morning - ploughing corn new Land. raised all the Gin house excepting rafters - Cotten Bluming generally through the field Where it has not been hurt by any insects. the Lice have Literally ruined 300 acres for me, all the upper side plantation most miserable looking - new Land part not 1/2 a stand - All looks well below excepting 40 acres new Land this side little creek, the seed I planted must have been old or were injured late coming up. now worms Lice & Grass hoppers a foul of it. negro<sup>s</sup> more healthy for 3 weeks past than they have been in several years - Ruffins family called by this morning. returning from Mrs Lyon<sup>s</sup> party - they report plenty of fun regret not going - fraid of relapse. &c.

June 1 Clear Very pleasant. Planted Peas. went Fishing to Rats Lake. River rising Very fast, & now nearly over its Banks swamp filling up

2 Clear Very pleasant. ran two Large furrow<sup>s</sup> round part of cotten in corn land, Very grassy, scraping part side at a time, Went to Mount Demorse took several dog<sup>s</sup> along - James shot at a deer missed from excitement, Emily & children with Mrs Flower came down. caught good many Fish

3 Clear very warm day, Went to Town as member of the Police Jury. ploughed evry other row in corn above

4 Cloudy threatning rain. running one furrow round cotten below. hoes scraping side at a time. returned home to day. sprinkle rain since dinner. quite cool, Old Pond the well digger to day to dig a well at the House. several sick

5 Clear pleasant morning - hoeing new Land above - ploughing Pennrice bottom Tie vines thicker than I ever saw them - Grass accordingly. Sent & got a Barrel of Blue Lick water.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> Probably from the Blue Lick Springs of Kentucky.

said will benifit my health - All old Land cotten below as good or better than I ever had it at this season of the year - old Land above improving Where the Lice have quit it, 120 acres new Land miserable Looking 1/2 stand & some stalks 2 inches high - & others 2 feet - Finished running round all old Land below by . . . Ok - ploughing new ground above.

6 Few clouds Very warm - hoeing Race track field - went Fishing & hunting at Mount Demorse - Caught fine mess of Fish in the Back water and joined with spring water - makes them very fine.

7 Clear pleasant morning - threatning rain all yesterday. Mr. Turnbull starts for the North with family to day - running cotten at Gibson. one furrow very good crop there. few places Bad stand from worms

8 Few clouds Very warm - Emily Mrs M. Barrow & Miss M. Swift went Fishing at Mount De Morse. had to sit on our horses to fish Caught great many Perch - Light rain drove them home early. shower on part the plantation, none at the house.

9 Foggy morning warm - Finished running one furrow all cotten excepting Clark place, & old corn Land Went Fishing again to day Towles & Leake - fine Fish fry

10 Cloudy Very warm - hands made a Bad beginning this morning got out Late Ploughs &c. Began overseering in Earnest, neglected my business all the year perswaded it injured my health - negros very much out of Geer

11 Clear or Few thin clouds, sprinkle rain at sun set yesterday heavy rain below & above - Finished running one furrow round the cotten since it rained excepting Clark place ploughing corn since sun rise - hoed all above by 0. 3<sup>d</sup> time<sup>98</sup>

12 Clear Very warm - running one furrow round Bottom corn - All corn Looks well, never had as promising Pumpkin vines - Damps has been doing nothing since Last November D<sup>r</sup> King tending him for Loss of his Eye sight, gave him up - to appearance seemed as well as ever gave him 25 cuts yesterday morning & ordered him to work Blind or not. to show the scoundrel. has ran off - will make him see sights as long as I live went up to Williams Eliza travelment - Came by Robert & a Puffins Rosalie & Anne are going to the North with Robert & a family, Bitter sent Damp home - could not see the way there, our collector find my pants - sprinkle rain at sun set.

Barrow omitted time.



13 Damp cloudy morning - Went Fishing at Rat<sup>s</sup> Lake raining there all day, hard ran & wind here

14 Dark cloudy morning, Ploughing Clark place 4 furrows. hoeing through cotten below - began covering the Gin house.

15 Heavy Fogg this morning. went to Mount Demorse Fishing Fish fry never Et any thing superior to the Fish caught there, hard rain at 12 O<sup>k</sup> light shower home - Finished ploughing ploughing Clark place secont time by 12 O<sup>k</sup>

16 Foggy morning, hoeing part of yesterday at Gibson place. C. Mathews came over with Mrs Flower

17 Few clouds Very Warm hoeing Gibson place, cotten evry Where "excepting some at G. P. taking the rust" improving - Breaking out middles vines & Small grass very thick. 25 Ploughs running. the swamp at Mount Demorse as high as I ever saw it & rising, Robt. J. B. & family Leave to day with Rosalie & Amanda for the North.

18 Cloudy, wind North. never knew the Fish "Trout" to bite in the Bayou Sara before this spring - Ploughing old Land below. hoeing Gibson place - D<sup>r</sup> King sent for me

19 Clear pleasant morning. returned from D<sup>r</sup> King<sup>s</sup> - left him much better - Very dark clouds in the East & appearance of heavy rain at Dusk

20 Clear pleasant morning. Finished hoing all home 3<sup>d</sup> time yesterday afternoon - hoeing Clark place - Breaking out middles at Gibson place - News came yesterday that the Texas Treaty had been rejected by the Senate, all owing to the rascally influence of Henry Clay - the present Whig or more properly Federal candidate for President - A Southern man with Northern principles, The Whigs oppose Annexation for no reason but hatred to M<sup>r</sup>. Tyler "President" and to make or get Abolition votes for clay

21 Cloudy droped rain at sun rise. Went Fishing with Ben. Joor - Finished Clark P. 3<sup>d</sup> time

22 Few clouds pleasant morning Emily & children went to Mount De morse for a Fish fry. fine sport

23 Clear pleasant morning my crop is improving, yet not to compare with my neighbours

24 Clear pleasant morning. Ploughing Piece of corn evry other row- shower few minutes at 12 O<sup>o</sup>

25 Cloudy warm - hoeing old Corn Land above, never saw cotton Branched as well generally as this season, Best season I ever saw for corn & cotton and evry thing those having seed & got a a stand & not troubled with worms Grass hoppers & Lice have uncom<sup>n</sup> crops - My cotton has 3 & 5 large Boll<sup>s</sup> on a stalk Bluming well. Lice Leaving it, fine shower at 3 O<sup>k</sup>

26 Few clouds very warm - Jno Towles came by. went Driving & fishing. poore sport. crossed the cause way pickets all afloat. returning found half the cause way gone had to wade & Lead our horses - shower at noon - scraping side at a time corn gound in front

27 Clear Very hot day, heavy rains all around - started 7 scrapers a head of the hoes, makes easier work for the hoes - Old Tom Rawlins staid here last night. Lived here during my Fathers time - planter, from dissipation left his wife now worth nothing a (as he says) reformed man - formerly the life of the whole country Quik &c. ploughing corn evry other row

28 Clear pleasant, early, but very hot in the Sun. ploughing young corn in bottoms

29 Clear Very hot day. D<sup>r</sup> King sent for me yesterday, Went to see him Little sick chill & fever

30 Clear Very warm morning Went Driving, started great many Deer, River & swamp higher than it has been since 1828 & rising very fast - Bennet J. had to move out yesterday Ruffins has lost half of his crop allready

July 1 Cloudy Very hot - fine shower at 10 O<sup>k</sup> much the warmest day this year, my crop in places & in new Land is most retched now, the rust has Begun on it, two thirds of my crop improving & is now fair & some verry fine - Large Bunches of grass through most of it causes it to Look worse - fine rain at 10 O<sup>k</sup> & at 12

2 Cloudy Very warm. went to Town voted for member of Congress J. B. Dawson Legislators C. Davis J. Row, convention Thomas Scott, W D Boyle, & R Dupree

3 Clear very warm

4 Clear very warm - went Driving Killed 3 Deer

5 Clear Very hot. Went Fishing at the Back water at Mount Demorse. Emily & children River water up to the hills. fish Bite only Where some clear water runs in to the swamp

6 Clear very hot, went and found a number of persons fishing in the Big creek fish fry &c. fine rain over on the Big road none here

- 7 Cloudy Very hot morning shower at 4 o<sup>ck</sup>
- 8 Cloudy very hot. went hunting & fishing - working Clark place, scraping to middles - the River over Bayou Sarah - impossible to get farther than foot of the hill
- 9 Clear Very hot - Finished hoeing Clark place 4<sup>th</sup> time. fair crop on it
- 10 Few clouds Very warm - went up to W. H B yesterday, he is nearly overflowed - Ruffin & B. J. quite drowned out, River still rising
- 11 Clear Very warm - suffering for rain
- 12 Clear Very hot day - ploughing Clark place - cotton very good. not suffering for rain. Went Fishing below Mount Demorse. Caught great many in few hours Very Large Perch
- 13 Clear pleasant - Went to see Dr King Last evening his mind keep<sup>s</sup> him sick nervous &c. Very hard rain at Clark place & all below the Big creek Little creek quit high as I crossed it
- 14 Cloudy warm - River still rising all Bayou Sarah under water except 60 feet in front of Holmes, go in shifts from the foot of the hill - sprinkle rain on Gibson field
- 15 Clear hot in the Sun - quite cool Early this morning getting out Press timber, hoeing Gibson place
- 16 Clear Very pleasant early in the morning - sun very hot after 8 o<sup>ck</sup>, Went hunting
- 17 Clear and as hot as can be. Last night the hottest night I ever felt - suffering for rain on cotton shriveled up after 9 o<sup>ck</sup> & every Blume falling off. Bluming to the Top - my crop being Back ward & so much old Land must suffer seriously - rain all round me - great many had more rain that cared for - I had 7 weeks drought in the spring & now nearly 5 weeks since the water would remain in furrows one hour - one small crib of corn only - Began on it Friday Last - cotton opening very fast - 3 & 6 Boles on a stalk, opening since the 8<sup>th</sup>
- 18 Clear pleasant morning - stoped ploughs & scrapers to finish hoeing Gibson place, only two Days hoeing one days work for scrapers - unless it rains, will plough no more tis year, cotton opening very fast. Fodder to pull
- 19 Cloudy cool West wind River falling, 10 scrapers running at Gibson Finished other side Little creek by Breakfast. Cotton Litterally Burnt up on old Land

20 Cloudy warm - shower rain at 10 <sup>Ok</sup> hard rain above  
- quite a Number hunting to day

21 Cloudy warm - ploughing Potatoes yesterday first time  
this year. & hilled them - no ploughing in cotten nor hoeing  
to do at present.

22 Cloudy damp morning Light rain yesterday evening, hard  
rain all round me, most remarkable, I can't get a rain to do  
any good - ploughing sugar cane patch, intended pulling Fodder  
to day - pulling Fodder light sprinkle - Went Driving  
Killed two Deer.

23 Cloudy warm morning sprinkle rain at 2 <sup>Ok</sup> just enough f  
to wet Fodder & do no good to cotten quit cold. hard rain  
above & below in sight creek up every day from rains above -  
picking cotten sucklers & children

24 Damp Foggy morning - Old Land Cotten nearly ruined ,  
unless unco<sup>m</sup> good season from this out. my new Land improved  
very much - several sick - Very fine rain at 1 <sup>Ok</sup>

25 Cloudy warm, went Driving Bad shooting 8 shots  
no deer, son James two shots & one snap - Deer came near  
running over him, shower again to day

26 Clear warm - pulling Fodder, all hands M<sup>r</sup> Benjamin  
Building my Running Gear & Press

27 Clear pleasant day. Went Driving. I am suffering very  
much wit pain in my hip & back from wading in the water too  
much - Son James wounded Large Buck - &c.

28 Clear very hot sun, heavy rain above & below from  
appearances - I want more rain old Land nearly Dead & places

29 Clear Very warm in the sun. cool wind from the North  
- pulling Fodder - sucklers & children picking cotten, opening  
very fast, new Land cotten fine & improving rapid - good soil  
in Land Looks well & still making, well Bolled - tie vines &  
grass come up very thick in 3 day<sup>s</sup> past. putting up two sheds  
in the field, Loaned R. H. B place two Loads corn - My corn  
looks very fine - young corn in bottoms fine as can be & never  
had a hoeing & only one ploughing

30 Clear very warm

31 Clear very warm morning. running scrapers evry other  
ow. all women picking cotten

August 1 Clear warm morning went Fishing, Light sprinkle rain here. fine rain in sight & adjoining me

2 Cloudy pleasant East wind, 11 scrapers running, 4 hands sawing - 4 getting scaffold Boards, 2 hawling, 2 making Baskets, 2 stacking Fodder - 2 putting up cotten houses - Very hard rain at 3 O<sup>k</sup>

3 Clear pleasant East wind Very hard wind & rain from the East ay 2 O<sup>k</sup> Blew down a cotten house Essex was just Finishing covering it it fell & crushed him to Death mashing his Brains out. post<sup>s</sup> were not in the ground deep enoughf - and only half of the number that were told him to put under it, just yesterday scolding about it - Bad Luck still follows me

4 Clear pleasant morning cool East wind, D<sup>r</sup> King Left this morning. health Very much improved - M<sup>r</sup> Hurlburt convalescent.

5 Clear Very warm - Getting stocks for Plank & timber for Press & scaffolds with 25 hands - others Picking cotten & 11 scraping - evry other row.

6 Cloudy threatning rain. Taken yesterday with pain in my stomach. very unwell & no great relief - sprinkle rain at dark

7 Foggy pleasant morning - still with pain in my Bowells & stomach - &c.

8 Clear Very warm in the sun - Cotten opening very fast - now good picking - women children & men averaged 152 <sup>lb</sup> yesterday. several as high as 110<sup>lb</sup> by 10 O<sup>k</sup> this morning - picking at Gibson place - avreaged 160 by 5 O<sup>k</sup>

9 Clear Very warm. several Very sick negro<sup>s</sup>

10 Cloudy Very hot - 30 Bales out to night

11 Cloudy Very warm & sultry, Old M<sup>r</sup> Henin Blacksmith taken with very Bad pain in the stomach - Laudanum relieved him - sprinkle rain Last night - shower to day at 1/2 12 <sup>0</sup>. fine rain sight, never as much cotten open in this month as have at this time - never as pretty Looking in the Bole - hands seem disposed to pick well - excepting 4. Patience Thornton Easten Nat & Bets Nat, great sherks, fine shower on part place, at 2 Ock - cool wind

12 Cloudy Damp morning work the road across the creek - cutting Logs for seed & cotten House - Hoeing since Breakfast. women & children - Hard rain this evening

13 Cloudy Appearance of Bad day or rainy day - hoeing getting timber & pickets in the swamp, rained at 12 & untill 1/2 4 as hard as it could pore, considerable wind cotten very much bloun

14 Damp Foggy morning - hoeing cleaning out Gin walk getting out pickets - putting or preparing to put up Cato Lead fall again. Cotten materially injured, Lying down - must rot Bolled to the Top, old Land nearly done, may make some top cotten Favourable Fall - picking cotten since dinner

15 Foggy morning - Jno Mayrant & I went Fishing swamp water too muddy - Floating posts out for cotten House - putting sleepers in Gin house - Laying Floor &c.

16 Clear Very pleasant Morning Old M<sup>r</sup>. Byrnes came down yesterday. his health is very much improved - regret he was unable to do all my work, so seldom you find an honest man, Very hard rain at 4 1/2 Ok

17 Clear pleasant morning Hoeing, raising cotten house. rain at 2 1/2 Ok

18 Clear pleasant day Jno Joor & Lady here to day

19 Clear pleasant morning Picking cotten all hands except Carter & 4 others Clear pleasant morning Picking Where cotten has not been this year. trashy & rotten - 3 carts hawling scaffold Boards. 3 putting up scaffolds. 3 working at Gin house floor & cotten house

20 Clear pleasant morning. sprinkle rain at 4 Ok picking at Clark place

21 Clear Very hot

22 Clear very Hot - Trout Fish Bit Very well in the pond for two days

23 Clear very warm. several hands sick. picking at Gibsons great deal of cotten open evry Where, cotten improving some - forming for week past, shower rain at 5 Ok

24 Cloudy uncom.<sup>ly</sup> Hot

25 Cloudy & as hot as can be, warmest night & morning this season. Thomas Shilds of Mi here - the Convention for altering our State Constitution adjourned from Jackson East Feliciana without doing any thing, assuming a power in the act, to meet in N Orleans in January

26 Cloudy Very Hot - great quantity cotton open - Cleared off after 12 Ok - Went to Town, great excitement on the Texas Question, rumour that England had Loaned Mexico \$40.000 to invade Texas. all aimed at slavery

27 Clear cool Fall morning Cotton Dull sale in N.O.

28 Cloudy Quite cold & disagreeable morning, Picking new ground, Rotting in places - 50 Acres very Grassy, Bad picking in it

29 Clear Quite cold Last night, Fire comfortable, several sick, putting cotton in my Gin House & cotton house, cleaned up scaffold yard yesterday morning, Looks more Like doing Buisness, Two Band Wheels up

30 Clear cold morning, cotton opening very fast, Been in bad picking all this week, new Lands & great deal of young or replant Cotton, Better picking to day

31 Clear pleasant morning - Picking in Race track field as fine picking as ever I saw, picked well yesterday Hands remarkable well to day avreaging 235 <sup>lb</sup> 69 Pickers over 10 Bales or 16222 <sup>lb</sup> dry cotton Light Dew on it

September 1 Clear pleasant morning - Picked Last week 48 Bales Bothered two days for want of cotton & two days in Bad picking new ground grassy. over 125 Bales out last night. But for being Bothered about Gin house would have over 150 B. out, Courtneys celebrated overseer W. Bryant doubts my hands 69 Pickers picked 16105 <sup>lb</sup> Saturday, & offers to Bet \$700 they can't picke 16000 fair cotton, will take the Bet

2 Clear pleasant, Cotton making on Top very well

3 Clear pleasant morning, sun after 10 <sup>Ok</sup> unco<sup>n</sup>. Hot. pulled up a road through my cotton field & dug a deep ditch to try & stop the Army worm or Catapiller from destroying my crop - on Robt H. B adjoining me and in small portion of my cotton, nearly ready to start my Gins

4 Clear warm day. M<sup>r</sup>. Benjamin went over to take M<sup>r</sup>. Bryants Bet \$500 for me & \$200 for himself - Bryant Backed out - Catapiller in different parts of the plantation - Candis child 18 months died this morning, saw it yesterday for the first time, her usual carelessness - started my Gins 4 <sup>Ok</sup>

5 Cloudy threatning rain, My Gins run finely, 12 feet Band Wheels enables the gins great speed & motion to the Gin. makes fine Cotton, they are the improved Boatright. made in Collumbia South Carolina - Gin from 5 to 7 Bales a day - hard rain at 3 <sup>Ok</sup> hands were picking finely

6 Clear pleasant morning, Cleared off Last night - hoeing piece new ground & working about Gin house.

7 Clear pleasant - Dr King here to day

8 Clear cool morning - hands picked very well yesterday, only "day<sup>s</sup>" good work this week - av<sup>d</sup> 220 <sup>lb</sup>. some thing over 165 Bales out.

9 Clear cool N. East wind working Causeway to day Wade overseer, picking at Gibson place. The Army worm or Caterpillar has Began in Earnest in few days will be over the Whole place, my crop is now making more than any time since 15<sup>th</sup> June. would make very Large crop Barring worms & storm, must cut the cotten crop short eaquel to a frost on the 10 of Sept. some parts of the state Began Eating the cotten six weeks ago Alabama & Mi. allso

10 Clear Fall weather for few day<sup>s</sup> past. Jnd & Joseph Joor went up to Woodville this morning. Peter Joor very ill. great many Deaths in Woodville disease resembling yellow Fever an Epidemic, seven sick to day - my youngest child quite sick yesterday. Fever &c. hard shower at one oclock. Dr King here to see the Baby.

11 Damp Foggy morning - cool Margarets child Edmond Died Last night sick as far as I know 30 hours. Mrs D Barrow & Miss Charity Barrow here to day & sister Eliza - I am quite sick

12 Taken this morning with the most excrutiating pain than mortal ever had, in my right side & groin chord &c. never wished harder to die, near 4 hours before I got any relief. then by warm water & Morphia. & Morphia & Quinine kept up

13 As hard rain fell last night as ever did - am much relieved to day

14 Up & walking round the house to day. requires care & caution to prevent return of my pain

20 Cloudy warm rode out in the Buggy. hands picking better than I ever saw them evering all this week over 265 or upwards of 10 Bales a day

21 Cloudy threatening rain. worms have striped the fields, not a Leaf to be seen. cotten as trashy as can be - picking at Clark place. Very White

22 Clear turned Quite cold N. East wind after dark



23 Clear Fall morning - 67 pickers Saturday averaged 287. at 1600 to a Bale makes 12 Bales 65 Bales Last week a Bale to the Hand - 19195 <sup>10</sup> My pain returned slightly Last night. still dyeing in Woodville, upwards of 60 Deaths - Between 280 & 300 Bales out. never saw as much cotton open & so easily thrown out no Leaves on the stalk hard rain would injure 100 Bales - picking at Clark place trashy & great quantity on the ground - sun Very hot since 10 <sup>0</sup> -

24 Clear pleasant morning - I feel better this morning than I have in two weeks Sister Ann & Martha returned home from Kentucky on Saturday night Last - all well. sister Martha's health very much improved - Emily quite unwell Last night

25 Cloudy pleasant. sprinkle rain before day - Raising Press - one Gin & Trasher running

26 Cloudy warm. Began raining at 10 <sup>0</sup><sup>k</sup> Presser raised hands picking Very high weights - Averaging over 255 for two weeks past.

27 Cloudy cool wind East. Between 325 & 350 Bales out. Very hard rain at 1/2 4 <sup>0</sup><sup>k</sup>.

28 Cold Rain from day Light, appearance very Bad weather for some time to come - spinning trashing cotton &c. two Gins running to day.

29 Clear cold winter morning Quite a Frost Thermometer Forty nine at seven Oclock. no injury from Frost - Mrs Charles Percey Died since yesterday

30 Clear Winter Looking day, Frost on the scaffolds & houses or any timber Dew reather heavy. prevents general Frost old women Lying at the point of Death for several days past, over 60 years of age picking Cotton at Gibson place - never saw it more Trashy, Very White . . .

October 1 Clear pleasant morning, Old Center still Living speechless since Saturday, no idea she could then Live 12 hours

2 Clear pleasant dry North wind Went to Town yesterday by Turnbulls, all Look improved by their trip to Ky. great excitement in the Political world. the Democrats have at Last rallied on principles Dropped Martin Van Buren - & Thomas Benton, united on Polk & Dallas as their candidates for President & Vice President in Opposition to the Whigs or consolodationist & Abolitionist headed by Henry Clay, & supported by such traitors to Southern interest & rights" as A. Barrow & his clique - Begging for office should Clay be Elected - God grant he may be defeated, the main question is slavery & anti slavery & Texas &c.

3 Cloudy untill 9 O<sup>k</sup> clear afterwards very pleasant. Pressed one Bale yesterday, Pressing to day, Lower follower Broke the second Bale, will Last till new one is made

4 Clear most delightfull weather as fine as ever seen - cotton seems to turn out more to the acre than I ever saw it never saw as many hulls left on the stalk - Very trashy - Pressed 13 Bales yesterday from 8 O<sup>k</sup> till 3 Oclock - the handsomest Bales I ever saw nearly round, Boxes at the ends keep it square till Bale is ready for sewing. 23 1/2 inches thick 4 feet 8 inches in Length - can put as much cotton in a Bale as 4 horses can pull, one horse can pull down a Bale of 400 <sup>lb</sup> to 420 <sup>lb</sup> - runs up and down to within 5 turns without any resistance - Emily went over to Ruffins - M<sup>r</sup> Benjamin Finished all my work this morning Am<sup>t</sup> \$300 - Very reasonable

5 Clear pleasant Indian summer weather, Went to Town returned by way of the Miss Swifts, they have 5 negro<sup>s</sup> runaway Mrs Barrow 2 out

6 Few clouds heavy Dews. Made all hands work at moveing Cotton to day for disobedience of orders in putting Cotton away at night stopping entry &c. Press hands Press for only Pressing 20 Bales yesterday instead of 25 an easy days work.

7 Clear Quite cool morning 60 Bales pressed, one Gin running, trying to make good Cotton. selling now from 5 to 8 <sup>ct</sup> - poor Encouragement for a cotton planter thats in Debt.

8 Few clouds "since yesterday 10 Oclock". Quite cool morning went up to Williams this morning. anxious for me to go up to the Island Fishing Bar fish in great numbers. unable to under go the fatigue - Cleared off

9 Clear cool morning - not more than one weeks thick picking, must make very short crop, not much over or under 400 Bales out, pulling corn "sucklers" in Bottoms - hawling "one team" cotton to Rat<sup>s</sup> Landing.

10 Clear Very uncom<sup>n</sup> weather cool nights warm sun - never saw as fine a Fall so far - all hands pulling 'till dinner, Pressing

11 Few clouds quite cool & Damp morning, went to the Miss Swifts. nearly all of their hands have ran off. from pure impudence founded in their "Negro<sup>s</sup>" religion, & wish by that means to run the overseer off, will see them put in order, my health permitting

12 Clear pleasant day - shiped to day 54 Bales cotton, will Finish picking next week weather continuing good never

knew hands to pick as well in my Life, Avreaged over 200 to 280 for four weeks back - Between 425 & 450 Bales out to night 84 Pressed 115 Gined

13 Clear pleasant spring day, M<sup>r</sup> Byrnes here since yesterday sick chills & Fever - negro<sup>s</sup> digging sweet potatoes

14 Cloudy heavy fogg & warm summer day - hawling Cotten to Rats Landing - & seed cotten from Gibson place - hands picked 1<sup>st</sup> weighing worse than they have done this season considering the day.

15 Hard rain Last night at Dark, two men from Mississippi came Last night with pack of negro Dogs to hunt Miss Swifts negros. Caught one woman this morning & very foolish endeavored to make her direct us to the Camp & fooled the day off to no purpose, Brought her to my house tried the cold water on her Ladyship.

16 Damp Very Foggy, started again at day light, at 9 struck the trail of 3 negros took the swamp impossible for any of the Person<sup>s</sup> along to keep up with the dogs mud knee deep & water from knee to hip Deep, the dogs fought they out of hearing for 4 1/2 hours, never witnessed greater perseverance in any dogs after a Deer, dien't get them all for want of perseverance of the part of those attempting to follow the Dogs

17 Raining from 4 O<sup>k</sup> this morning, Feel pretty much worsted from the Last two days. had no idea I could have stood 1/4 as much as I did - out again since dinner no Luck.

18 Dark cloudy morning, out after the runaways. Began raining Very hard at 9 O<sup>k</sup>. Turned Quite cold & stoped raining at 1 O<sup>k</sup>

19 Few clouds in the East, Very cold wind from N. East. Gathering Peas - winter day, Very Little cotten to pick perhaps 50 Bales, Gave the negro<sup>s</sup> shoes last night.

20 Few clouds Cold East wind - pleasant & sun hot after 10 Oclock out Fox hunting. Came Back sick Light nervous chill & hot Fever

21 Raining since Last night Bad weather I fear from this time - quite unwell in Bed all day

22 Cloudy Very hot sultry since yesterday

23 Cloudy hot as can be - still quite unwell weake no strength of stomach head confused &c.

24 Cloudy Very warm, Picking cotton at Clark place very White rotten & trashy, P. Doherty called by Genuine Irishman, The Democrats have gained ground Very much since the scoundrel Van Buren has been put down - the state of New York will decide the Presidential Election, so thought.

25 Very Foggy morning pleasant.

November 1 Cloudy threatening rain - Yesterday was the Democratic Barbecue in Town - some very cold days since the 25. "been hunting runaways of the Miss Swifts & Mrs A G Barrow Caught three 5 out," with negro dogs, Very hard rain few days ago - negroes doing Very little for two weeks Back, Cut sugar cane, pulled some corn & Hay. Bought 14 Mules & 3 mares for \$1200, fine 3 year old mules, Emily & Mrs Haile her best friend, went to the Barbecue yesterday - the Whigs had a Barbecue on the 28, both humbugs James & John were quite proud of their Polk & Dallas Badges & walking in Procession with near 50 Boys all young Democrats

2 Cloudy Very hot, went Driving with Jno. Towles no Luck

3 Cloudy morning Very Hot day

4 Few clouds turning cool, went to Town, voted for Polk & Dallas President & vice President, great many in Town

5 Hazy morning cool & pleasant returned to Town this morning - hawling cotton to Rats. Landing - 175 Bales Pressed. 190 Gined. Pulling Hay yesterday - few days Picking

9 Clear Beautifull day & so for 3 weeks past. been hunting Miss Swifts runaways for week past no Luck after them - Dog men Left for Mississippi Last night. never saw as fine a Fall. seems imposible to rain, pulling corn & Hay 4 days this week. digging Potatoes to day

10 Cloudy Very warm - rainy day from 11 Ok

11 Dark Foggy & hot morning several showers through the day, spinning Pressing & hawling in corn - 195 Bales Pressed in N<sup>o</sup> - Breaking my Mules in the Gin, Very fine Looking & easily Broken

12 Rain at Day Light, wind from the North, Miss Swifts runaways all Caught, 5 taken at Laurel Hill<sup>99</sup> - spinning trashing Cotton &c.

13 Cloudy turning very cold went down to the Miss Swifts Whipped her runaways yesterday

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<sup>99</sup>Village about fifteen miles north of St. Francisville.

- 14 Clear very cold freezing morning digging Potatoes
- 15 Few clouds in the morning Very cold - Clear after  
12 0
- 16 Clear cold morning - still & fine &c.
- 17 Cloudy pleasant - Rain at 4 0<sup>k</sup> wind fresh from the  
North
- 18 Raining constant since yesterday 1/2 3. cold North  
wind, spinning trashing cotten &c.
- 19 Rain at day Light, cold - partially cleared off, D<sup>r</sup>  
King here to see Maria Very sick New Monia Breast &c.
- 20 Cloudy cool & Heavy Fogg, I was taken Very sudden  
Last evening with severe strangury
- 21 Dark cloudy morning - rain sprinkle at 8 0<sup>k</sup> pulling  
corn in piece of new ground - Maria better
- 22 Cloudy misting some, wind North, Maria very Low,  
Finished pulling all corn above by 1/2 10 0<sup>k</sup>. Mr. Byrnes  
altering my trasher - one Team helping Robt. H. to hall Large  
female Bothered with it several days.
- 23 Heavy Fogg, But remarkable pleasant day - Maria  
improving
- 24 Clear cool morning - pleasant day
- 25 Clear cold morning, hauling Bales
- 26 Clear cool morning, Cloudy at 10 0<sup>k</sup> - Pressing, two  
Gins running since yesterday
- 27 Cloudy warm - sprinkle rain Last night - misting  
at 11 0<sup>k</sup> - hands getting Lazy - 261 Bales Pressed in N<sup>o</sup> -  
261 Bales shipped
- 28 Cloudy damp & warm - Whiped all my grown cotten  
pickers to day, Dennis did not come up When called, ran off  
I expect, hope so - they all want a set too & have been so  
for 6 weeks past. my inattention &c. made all hands stay  
at Gibson place Last night
- 29 Dark Foggy morning, warm caught Dennis Last night  
at the scaffold yard, fooled then by Bets Nat. gave him the  
worst Whipping he ever had- & ducking - Finished picking  
cotten
- 30 Cloudy Damp Misty day

December 1 Cloudy, heavy rain Last night, Began fine & cold rain at 11 Ok. Wind from the North

2 Dark cold misty day - Went to Ruffins - times are worse now than ever were, cotton down to nothing & money scarce and commanding high interest, moveing cotton out of the cribs, trying to make good cotton now

3 Cloudy cool mist, Finished moving Cotton out of cribs women spinning, hawling hay cutting coal wood - getting cypress pickets for horse Lot & Hog yard

4 Cloudy cool East wind turned Very warm - Pulling corn since dinner

5 Clear till 10 O! Very hot summer day

6 Cloudy summer heat at day Light, Very hard rain & wind from the North at 8 Ok & very cold

7 Clear Very cold North wind

8 Clear Very cold

9 Clear Very cold day - Attended the sale of J. Flowers  
jur Land & negros went Low

10 Clear Freezing day

11 Clear everything Frozen planting Cherokee rose round Bottom field.

12 Cloudy cool East wind. turned warm

13 Heavy Fogg. Clear Bracing North wind since 7 Ok

14 Clear Very cold freezing morning out hunting this morning, Caught a Fox & cat, after Putting the Fox behind my horse & started through very thick can & woods, piece ran in him under his flank causing most excruciating pain & fright started with me at Full speed pitching & kicking up finally got me off & kicked me on my Leg as I fell, I seemed for 1/2 an hour perfectly crazy, took the Fox off as soon as I could as soon as he smelled it struck at me with both feet & kicking at every thing near him, supposed it to be only fright at the Fox untill seeing the Blood in his side & sheath, most remarkably gentle horse I ever knew

15 Few clouds cold morning

23 Clear cold day Freezing - returned home Last night  
from New Orleans. quite unwell, Very dull times in the city

24 Clear cold day - Quite unwell - Went to Town

25 Cloudy pleasant day

26 Cloudy warm - Very hard rain after 12 Ok

27 Clear Very cold day

28 Clear very cold, ground White as snow - & frozen

29 Clear cold morning turning more pleasant woman  
Maria died (from her own carelessness) this morning - Robt  
H & wife here since yesterday .

30 Few clouds cool

31 Cloudy cool Damp morning spring weather, Went to  
Town

1845 - 1846

January 1 Few clouds Early this morning, Warm spring day, Began work after the dulllest Christmass I ever past, just now feel like having it. suffered Very much from Bad cold & sore throat, the Prospects of the cotten planter seems quite gloomy from the immense am<sup>t</sup> of cotten made, and still increasing - my own situation is better than for 10 years Back obtained a Loan of \$24000 out of the Louisiana Bank on mortgage 8 pr c<sup>t</sup> interest I think will be able to get out of Debt without being cramped to Death, (Bad Beginning for New Year)

2 Damp spring morning - Went to Town. Bad news from Eoruope. Cotten still on the decline. supposed will be down as Low as 2 cents

3 Foggy spring morning - cleaning up getting Timber &c.

4 Clear spring day

5 Cloudy threatning rain, warm. misty "Fogg"

6 Turning quite cold rain Last night, William H B. here Last night - Went to Town

7 Clear cool still morning 369 Bales Pressed yesterday

8 Clear cold day Left home for N. Orleans

10 Returned home this evening from N. Orleans, Mistake in my mortgage papers

11 Clear cold

12 Clear cool spring day

13 Cloudy damp threatning rain 400 Bales pressed

14 Cloudy warm - D<sup>r</sup> Callihan here two days Left yesterday, started 11 Double ploughs (for corn) this morning - 3 weeks Ginning yet



15 Cloudy Very warm - 10 Double ploughs running to day. Very hard rain from 3 O<sup>k</sup> till night. Amanda & Hilliard quite sick for two days

16 Damp warm Summer Like morning - rainy day - Went over to Ruffins

17 Cloudy pleasant N. wind - raining all Last night - spinning repairing fence - Ginning pressing &c. rainy day

18 Cloudy Very cold North wind - rainy after 11 Ok.

19 Dark misty & cold morning

26 Returned home this morning to Breakfast. Very cold-- stoped 3 negro<sup>s</sup> this morning going to Town with meal - times Very gloomy in N. Orleans - Cotten prospects Little better - certain of much shorter crops than as calculate on - 165 acres corn ground ploughed - 438 Bales pressed in N<sup>o</sup>

27 Cloudy cool South wind - went to Town - news that cotten had risen 1/2 cent.

28 Dark morning. Very hard rain Last night too wet to plough - M<sup>r</sup> Joor came down Last night - A Grocer in Town by the name of Feters accidentally shot his wife - died instantly, &c.

29 Cloudy Very cold day

30 Few thin clouds Very cold 19 Double ploughs running ploughing for cotten

31 Clear cold windy day - ploughing corn Land for corn.

February 1 Cloudy warm day - near making up my mind to give away my Dog<sup>s</sup> so few Foxes great difficulty in starting have to ride 7 & 8 miles, Finished Ploughing Land for corn two days since - running 3 furrows for cotten

2 Cloudy threatning rain. draining Pond in Bottom field since yesterday afternoon. Millions of Cat Fish & Perch - D<sup>r</sup> King & Sarah Turnbull came yp to partake of a Fish dinner

3 Cloudy Appearance of rain. raining constant from 12-0<sup>k</sup> till 4 0 <sup>PM</sup> H. B. here to day trying to sell out to M<sup>r</sup> Turnbull or to get him to assist him out of his present embarrasements - by advancing William \$20.000 would enable him to get out of Debt And Turnbull can not have Less than \$125000 in money

4 Thin cloudy morning, quite cold - Very hard rain after dark Last evening Hauling seed corn

5 Clear freezing morning

6 Clear till 9 O<sup>k</sup> Freezing day

7 Cloudy damp & cool

8 Cloudy damp & cool morning, 23 Double ploughs running 4 days "since" - have the Best plough Teams I ever had - sold M<sup>r</sup> Flower my old Mules & 3 mares

9 Few clouds, spring day

10 Clear cool morning - Left Home for W<sup>m</sup> H. B. on the Island. "Red River"

16 Clear quite cold returned Home last night 1/2  
11 O<sup>k</sup>

17 Clear cool & pleasant morning spring day - Finished running Round 3 & 2 furrows all Home by Dinner - clark place to plough - Making fence could have finished hawling out Seed to day - But waiting for Ruffin to get seed from me & to Hall others in return for manure - bothering me Very much - ditching pondy place in Bottom field - &c. 471 Bales shipped Last week 20 to Gin

18 Verry Foggy morning - running one more furrow in corn Land - Went out Turkey hunting before day with Jno. Mayrant, satisfied for this season

19 Dark Foggy morning, eaquel to a rain - Ploughing at Clark (entree) - started trasher on yellow cotten

20 Cloudy spring morning - Killed two fine Deer yesterday one with each Barrel - Very hard rain at 12 O<sup>k</sup> W<sup>m</sup> H & family expected down to day

21 Cloudy warm day. started Breaking out middles for corn after 12 O<sup>k</sup> Ginning yellow & trash cotten

22 Cloudy warm - Very hard rain 1/2 day

23 Clear cool morning, L. Fox Felling about 1/2 day Yesterday got his hand caught, cut one finger off . & tore the Thumb Very badly & cut the others some

24 Clear cool morning - Breaking out middles for corn - Ginning the Trashiest & dirtiest Cotten I ever saw. 20 Double ploughs running

25 Clear cool morning. pleasant day. out Driving with Jno Mayrant, Left him, never saw as many Ticks in one place as I saw this morning

26 Cloudy cool morning, Damp, Cleared off warm - planting corn in Hollow<sup>s</sup> (new ground) New Blacksmith to work for me to day, M<sup>r</sup>. R. Chatham \$2 pr day - 16 ploughs only to day - Pressing my Last cotten, Finished Ginning yesterday evening 4 O<sup>k</sup>

27 Clear turning Quite cold since day Light. Began planting corn covering with seven ploughs - Mrs Joor here to day

28 Clear, Hazy cool morning, Repairing the Piano - tuning &c.

March 1 Raining hard since day Light. house full of perfect Low creatures

2 Cloudy warm several showers through the day

3 Raining, & very warm - making fence - regret planting corn - may come up warm weather continuing

4 Cloudy. several hard showers this morning, turning cold since dinner - working on Dam in Front Lot & stopping wash by the crib<sup>s</sup>

5 Clear most delightfull day stopping the Leake in Green pond dam - started ploughing since dinner

6 Clear, spring day. Martins made their appearance this morning - Went to Town - report says, Texas has been Annexed, (Fact 14.)

7 Cloudy damp East wind - Cotten on the rise - planting corn again

8 Cloudy Very warm - Mrs Joor & M<sup>r</sup> & Mrs Jno Joor here to day, E J B. J Mayrant Hurlbert, & myself driving killed one Deer. Mayrant missed one in 30 feet

9 Cloudy summer morning - Wind South - M<sup>r</sup>. Hurlbert killed his first Turkey last evening

10 Raining very hard & cold since Last night, Taken to day with Fever & slight sore throat, ploughing since dinner

11 Rainey day, wind North

12 Raining & no appearance of stopping. I still feel Bad weak & don't know the cause no Appetite Epidemic influenza I presume John & Amanda & their mother all have it great many negros sick with it M<sup>r</sup>. Byrne fell with the Ladder off of the Milk house

13 Raining all day steady gentle rain. I feel very sick this morning Breat &c.

14 Cloudy cool morning, some appearance of Better weather, M<sup>r</sup>. Byrne complains very much of his side internal Bruise from his fall - Eye cut - knocked senseless. Clifford accidentally saw him fall or would have remained in that predicament for a Long time I feel some Better to day - But Little work done this weak, women spinning - Jno Mayrant persevering after wild Turkys - corn coming finely so Mayrant says - 170 acres planted, weather stoped me from planting more

15 Clear cool day

16 Clear cool & pleasant day

17 Clear cool morning. Summer evening

18 Clear turning quite cool - Cloudy at 12 O<sup>k</sup> threatening rain wind N. East. Caught some fine Trout fish out of the green pond

19 Dark cool smokey morning planted corn yesterday. all except bottoms, running 5 iron teeth harrows over second planting corn

20 Clear Very cold North wind & getting colder - Bought Molasses at 23 1/2 c. pr. Gallon

21 Clear 'till 8 O<sup>k</sup> Darkned up sleeted & very cold

22 Cloudy & smokey cool Finished Breaking middles by 10 O<sup>k</sup> this morning, ploughing Bottoms for corn, went to Town

23 Rain. "Light" Last night. Cloudy threatening Bad day - raining slow during the day

24 Great quantity fallen since Last night, too wet to plough - spinning, men making chimney & clearing Land

25 Cloudy (early) & cool morning

26 Began planting cotton this morning 6 ploughs & 6 harrows - Cloudy warmest day this spring

27 Cloudy warm - seven harrows & ploughs

28 Cloudy warm 10 ploughs & harrows planting cotton since dinner

29 Cloudy summer day. 9 ploughs & harrows planting Cotton "double harrows" covering cotton more than I ever did seeding corn sucklers &c.

30 Cloudy warm threatening rain - Boys Mr Mayrant & Mr Hurlburt went Saturday to the Big Lake below B. J. B. Caught great many fish - 305 acres cotton planted Last night

31 Cloudy damp South wind cool rain at 4 O<sup>k</sup>

April 1 Clear cool morning wind East. planting cotton at Gibson place since yesterday dinner - cleaning up water Mellon patch - Robert J. B wrote me a note this morning to meet him at early Breakfast to go a Fishing April fool day

2 Clear very warm, went Fishing to Rat<sup>s</sup> Lake poor sport Jno. Mayrant with me. he became quite disgusted at his own fishing

3 Very Foggy morning - Finished planting cotton at Gibson place yesterday O<sup>k</sup> - 590 Acres planted Last night - allowing each harrow to have planted 10 Acres a day - usual day<sup>s</sup> work - Ruffin fauled seed enough to plant two 3<sup>ds</sup> of his crop without returning me a seed - as I expected - Last year closes my Folly - have been eternally waiting on other people or trusting to their own sensibilities, sprinkle rain at 4 O<sup>k</sup> Very dark clouds in the West - Finished planting cotton all home - by 4 Oclock this afternoon - ploughing & hoeing new ground corn

4 Cloudy pleasant. Fine rain during Last night. just the one to bring up corn and Cotton - planted cotton Clark place - Finished 1/2 O<sup>k</sup> 9 days planting - allowing each harrow & plough to put in 10 Acres a day - will make 755 Acres in cotton - including the Bottom field will have in 300 acres of corn

5 Cloudy warm & damp morning ploughing corn hoeing new ground corn till 9 O<sup>k</sup> seeding corn since

6 Dark cloudy morning - was overtaken at the Big Bayou Sarah (Lower road) yesterday returning from town by as hard wind as ever I felt trees blown down in evry direction dangerous to move - slow rain after it, heavy rain below from appearance

7 Cloudy Quite cold - Wind North - Fearfull of the cotton - nearly all up. seeding & ploughing corn - Cleared off after 10 Ok

8 Clear quite cool morning. Finished putting seed around Corn by . . . Ok 100 replanting it, Very Bad stand, Finished running two furrows in a row by . . . Ok. ploughing Potatooe for ridges

9 Clear cool morning, all hands making sweet Potatooe ridges - returned home at dark staid at B J B. place Last night - took provisions withe us - J Mayrant along. Caught good many Fish Perch - tolerable Fishing only

10 Clear cool morning Began Barring off cotton this morning - planting Potatoes

11 Heavy Fogg this morning. Finished planting 8 1/2 Acres of Potatoes by 10 Ok. hoeing corn since, ploughing corn a head of the Hoes two furrows in the rows that were Bared to facilitate the hoeing.

12 Few clouds pleasant morning Emily taken quite sick just as I mounted my horse to go a Fishing, D<sup>r</sup> King to see her.

13 Few clouds pleasant morning, cotton looks Badly slight frost few mornings Back, Emily much better this morning, Boys got home at dark Last evening, caught several hundred Fish - M<sup>r</sup> Hurlburt & Goy Jack gone to explore the swamp to get a road through if possible

14 Cloudy warm - hoeing corn & Barring cotton bothe look improved - sprinkle rain at 4 Ok

15 Cloudy warm morning, Finished hoeing corn first time by . . . Ok 101 scraping cotton since, sent for by the Miss Swifts, they are over head & years in Debt and plantation the worst possible fix & are going to morrow to start for Ohio to spend the Summer the way the world goes. Very hard rain - too wet to hoe or plough since 4 Ok worked on Green pond dam

16 Dark cloudy morning. Sent waggon to Rats. Lake to bring Fish home to put in the pond - J. Mayrant along. too Lazy to Live - Brought 59 home a live - Great Hail storm at Wades & above, some Fell here as Large as a Hen<sup>s</sup> egg - Very heavy rain - too wet to plough since dinner

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100 Time omitted by Barrow

101 Time omitted by Barrow

17 Rainy Very Hard at day Light - D<sup>r</sup> King Left this morning before Light & in the rain - had to swim our horses across the Bayou in Ruffins field yesterday in returning from the Lake. scraping cotten since dinner all hands - 1 day & one 3<sup>d</sup> of another scraping cotten to night

18 Cloudy Hot morning all hands scraping cotten

19 Cloudy Very warm - went to the Big Lake Fishing. caught Very Large Perch - poured rain at 2 O. rode Home wet

20 Emily quite unwell very Low spirits seems to think of Death in fact think's she is not to survive this year out - Made our solemn pledge never to marry - she made an exception, unless I would marry, or wished to marry her sister Mrs Haile, because she knows Mrs H. will be Kind to her children - I well know that Emily will never violate the pledge and I will not - makes me Very miserable to see her in such Very Low and I think groundless Feelings - out with such thoughts. sufficient for the day is the evil thereof - I am a strong believer in Presentments and am much annoyed by the above fears of Emily, willmark this time proves all things, God grant she may be wrong, Just now feel as tho we could have some means of enjoying ourselves, fair prospects of getting out of Debt, my run of bad luck must certainly end shortly, nearest friends have been my Dearest ones - sorry am I compelled to write down ( so wrong ) a fact of this nature, Had I only taken the advice of Emily would never have been in debt Who could have been more happy than we - The world will think strange of such a request as Emily has made above, But Why should we care for the opinion of any one Where our happiness is in View, & injuring no one, Emilys feelings and situation at this time, makes me reflect on the past and think there are many things neglected that might have been done. & ought to have been, for our mutual happiness - human nature to postpone for to morrow What could be done to day, it Grieves me verry much to see her so completely convinced that none of her family care any thing for her, but one exception, or may say two, one of her sisters is young & thoughtless therefore excusable - for we are all more or less the creatures of circumstances, a Mothers influence or manners have there due weight, I cannot say much against Emily's notions for in all her opinions time has proven her correct, my entire transactions with the family has ended Just as she expected and predicted, her reasons for forming such opinions I never knew, I acted for the Best and so far have never injured any human being to my knowledge, But will try and

take care of my own the remainder of my life - shall quit Fox hunting - and study amusements with my wife & children, God speed and end to all my troubles, hope in a short time to be able to start some Where with all the family for health pleasure & happiness - 20 April 1845 - B. H. Barrow - sick and worn out from yesterdays folly - will try and rest a while - the Cloudy warm - heavy rain yesterday

21 Cloudy damp disagreeable morning. ground too wet to hoe or plough - Am at both - corn Looking fine - cotten behind the hoe hands coming up a second stand - seed planted too deep hoeing it Just enough to bring it up - crab grass Very thick, hoeing old Land above

22 Cloudy damp & verry warm morning - two cribs of corn untouched 1/2 crib "Large one" of shucked corn

23 Cloudy warm South wind, Clear after 4 O<sup>k</sup>  
Finished Barring off cotten at Gibson place by 1/2" 9 O<sup>k</sup>  
scraping cotten below, ground very wet

24 Cloudy damp and warm

25 Hard rain at day Breake Much collier than it has Been for some time - Blacksmith here since Tuesday, making me 10 hoe harrow<sup>s</sup>, Judge Wade lying at the point of death, general Breaking down of his system nervous &c. some better yesterday morning, Finished Barring off all except Clark place by dinner, Moulding cotton all the ploughs one furrow, since dinner.

26 Cloudy threatning rain went Fishing with M<sup>r</sup> Hurlburt Jno Joor & the Boys to Cat Island Lake - poore sport worried with the flat, Boy George did not reach home 'till 10 O<sup>k</sup> at night Very dark ride through the swamp had to return back 1 1/2 Miles bridge gone &c.

27 Cloudy warm, summer weather, Jno Joor Lady here since Friday night left this morning

28 Clear pleasant morning, first clear morning in a Long time, shower yesterday evening at 5 O<sup>k</sup> Hoeing at Gibson place shower rain at 2 O<sup>k</sup>

29 Cloudy very warm - Began at day Light Overseering - Coffee at day Light out 'till 12 - negro<sup>s</sup> worked harded to day than they have done in at Least 5 years

30 Cloudy warm, rain in sight - Finished hoeing Gibs place to 5 acres



May 1 Foggy morning Finished Gibson by 9 Ok hoeing below. Ploughs Barring off Clark place - ploughing corn yesterday one furrow - moulded 170 Acres cotten - Judge W. C. Wade died Last night. Burried this evening Sick for three weeks past

2 Cloudy Very warm - Light shower yesterday at 4 Ok Finished scraping cotten all at Home by Late dinner, hoeing corn second time since dinner, ploughing corn one furrow 23 ploughs, Any quantity of grass

3 Cloudy hot day. rain last night, Went Fishing with Boys to day, Caught good many fine Perch - Jno Towles & B J B along raining frequently during the day, planting corn in bottoms since dinner

4 Cloudy damp hot morning

5 Very hard rain at day Break. Appearance of Very bad day, constant heavy rain from 8 Oclock 'till 5 1/2 Ok - will have a hard scuffold to keep Genl Grass down - Where I Barred cotten early, middles Green with crab grass - women spinning - Men doing nothing

6 Damp cloudy morning, setting out sweet Potatoe sprouts - & Hoeing them - ploughing out middles in new ground since dinner

7 Cloudy cold North wind Fire Very comfortable, Ruffins Eldest daughter (Rosalie) Married yesterday evening to Charles Hunter of N. Carolina second cousin - scraping Clark place, crab grass all over my plantation, Excepting Where I scraped Last 4 days work - Ploughing out middles in cotten, Cleared off cold

8 Clear cool spring morning, Cut worms getting Very Bad, am Very fearfull that they will injure my crop greatly, Lice evry part of the place - Finished scraping Clark place by 1/2 4 Ok. sucklers putting seed round corn (yesterday), The newly married couple here to day (M<sup>r</sup> & Mrs Rosalie) Hunter, And Amanda

9 Clear cool morning, Hoeing & thinning corn since yesterday 5 Ok (evening) cut worms & Lice are dcing me greater damage & more extended over the place than I ever knew them, cool nights (now) Very favourable to cut worms - ploughing below moulding & breaking out piece in corn Last year Very Grassy

10 Cloudy morning Very hard rain to day after 1 Ok  
& Hail. Very thick & small - in the swamp Fishing - got  
a soaking, too wet to plough

11 Clear pleasant morning

12 Clear pleasant morning, moulding cotton one furrow  
Finished hoeing corne second time by . . . Ok<sup>102</sup> - hoeing  
Cotton scraping through it too wet & worms too bad to  
hill it - Woman Patience Began acting the rascal for some  
days past. Planting corn in Bottoms since dinner, covering  
it with harrows, opening with dowble horses two frrows,  
one furrow thrown each way, weeds & grass Very thick in the  
Bottoms, Bottom Field Little Turfey, Looks Very rich, plant-  
ing it with Boat corn

13 Pleasant, Foggy morning some hands hoeing cotton  
Finished planting all the Bottoms and the Bottom field to  
15 acres

14 Rain before day as hard as could poor, and never  
heard heavier & more thunder, Am worse in the grass tha I  
ever was at this season of the year, 300 Acres to run round  
with the ploughs, bothered by Attempting to make corn in  
the Bottom field, the worst year could have hit upon, raining  
off & on for near two months, All hands Hoeing since 10 O<sup>K</sup>.  
winter rain after dinner, sun set clear, cool

15 Clear cool morning, all hands hoeing scraping though  
cotton, &c.

16 Clear Very cold morning, cold North wind Blowing  
since yesterday, Fire comfortable, cotton Looks Badly from  
Lice. corn Very fine, from half thigh to head high, cotton  
forming for week or more past

17 Clear cold morning, Went Fishing with Boys - fine  
sport. negros holliday part of the day

18 Clear cool morning Cotton at Gibson place looks much  
better than any I have. not eaten by Lice

19 Clear cool morning, never felt or saw purer weather  
for few day<sup>s</sup> past, Finished moulding Gibson place by 1 Ok  
hoeing P R new ground Very grassy scraping it

20 Clear pleasant, By some carelessness have Lost a  
Letter from the Miss Swifts enclosed were two of three

Blank notes & power of Att<sup>y</sup> to me as their agent, never in my Life had any thing to worry me as much - recollect of having it at my desk. suppose some of the children have destroyed it Went to Town

21 Foggy pleasant morning Damp - shower rain at 1/2 5 Ok - hilling cotten with hoes First this year. heavy Baking rains had to scrape second time, replanted old Land in front with corn Lice ruined the stand, Finished moulding all except Clark place, & Breaking 175 acres Middles

22 Few clouds Very warm morning, shower at 2 Ok

23 Few clouds pleasant - hilling cotten P R Bottom ploughing P R new ground

24 Foggy warm morning Ploughing Little Gate cut of corn every other row, sprinkle rain at 4 Ok

25 Cloudy damp morning, Went exploring below B. J. B in the swamp took 3 men along to make Dugouts made one, poor Fishing Bennet J. B. shot his horse with Rifle going through a thicket, will carry his gun cocks down, second horse he has shot

26 Cloudy cool morning, want rain Very much, Moulding Clark place

27 Clear warm morning, Finished moulding Clark place by 8 Ok hilling cotten Gibson place since yesterday, want rain on corn Very much. ground Very hard & dry from Baking rains, & not able to plough it as soon as I wished, started two more ploughs - Woman Darcas during my absence on Sunday Last Cut her husband (Dice' Nat) in the Hip with a hatchet. Very dangerous cut - will make her sick of the sight of a Hatchet as Long as she Lives - ploughing corn evry other row, Looks finer than I ever saw it, will make more if good season from this time, One Small crib of corn & one Fodder crib full - one fourth of Large crib of shucked corn

28 Few clouds Very warm, 25 Ploughs running two sick one hoe hand - 3 in all - Finished hilling Gibson place by Ok Cotten at Gibson place Looks well the only place the Lice have nut ruined the stand, Where ever the Lice have not been on the cotten from 10 inches to two feet high, not as well set as Last season, wants ploughing on 160 acres scraped after the Last rain & ground wet, causes it to Look Very Badly ground baked, Labour thrown away working in the wet, grass has grown faster this spring than I ever

saw it, middles quite grassy nearly every Where, bottoms in corn nearly a wilderness weeds &c. corn up & wants work Very Badly. Bottom two thirds planted & up, Bad year to have undertaken to tend it - Robert J. B here to day thinks my crop Very fine much the Best Any where &c. his must be very Bad from his description, D<sup>r</sup> King called by

29 Raining at 6 O<sup>k</sup> "light", Very warm - Cleared off - went to Town - Cotten Blume

30 Clear pleasant morning - Running one Furrow round new Land Cotten above Looks fine, forming finely Best I have seen this season, 25 Ploughs running, Young corn in Bottoms suffering Very much for work, nearly hid by weeds grass, &c. Putting new Sills "Cypress" under Back part of the House. Finished hilling Cotten 1<sup>st</sup> time or second hoeing by Dinner - running one Furrow round cotten this side creek

31 Clear Very pleasant, Went Fishing Below Cat Island. Ruffin, young Stirlings &c. no Luck too Late in season

June 1 Cloudy morning Very warm - want rain Very much. working my bottom corn yesterday Barring it off & scraping it, Very weedy & grassy W<sup>m</sup> H. B. sent to day to Borrow corn. got two Large waggon Loads

2 Cloudy Damp E. Wind, went to Town as Police Joror, sprinkle rain, much in want of it

3 Cloudy warm - Miles Kelly of Bollen Green Ky, here with fine roan saddle horse, Robt. H B Bought him, hoeing bottom field corn

4 Cloudy warm - Finished Ploughing all cotten Above by . . . O<sup>k</sup> 103 second time & part the 3<sup>d</sup> time, Finished hoeing bottom field & planted 5 acres more by 11 O<sup>k</sup> Had Quite a Frollic Among the negros Last Sunday missed several of my young Hogs. found 8 or 10 Guilty, ducked & gave them a good thrashing, M<sup>r</sup> Ginney Jerry next morning Felt insulted at his treatment & put out, would give "freely" \$100 to get a shot at him

5 Raining Very hard at 7 O<sup>k</sup> Fine rain after Dark Last night, planting Potatoe slips & ploughing corn. D<sup>r</sup> King here Last night. I have been quite unwell since Monday, worse yesterday evening, Fullness in head &c.

6 Clear pleasant morning, hard rain yesterday at 1/2

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103 Time omitted by Barrow.

4 <sup>k</sup> on part of the place, Taken quite sick at 11 <sup>Ok</sup>. Fever nervous conjection &c.

10 Damp sultry & Hot morning up & about the House to day But Feel Very Badly effects of Quinine & weak - wish Very much I could Leave for the White Sulphor springs, Va - several Very hard rains few days past. ploughing out middles hoeing through cotten, wants thinning badly, Looks fine. planted Pease on the 6<sup>th</sup>, have a very fine crop, Mrs Joer came from Woodville to day

11 Cloudy warm, rain Last night, somewhat improved to day Feel stronger, several sick negro<sup>s</sup>. Ploughers doing Bad work. My Foreman "Atean" sent for me this morning unable to go, Have heard nothing of my runaway as yet - Old Dennis Bryrne Left yesterday for Ohio to see his Brother &c. just from Ireland - ploughing at Gibson<sup>s</sup> hoeing new Land above

12 Cloudy damp & warm, Planting Peas below the house - in young corn, Feel much stronger this morning

13 Clear Very warm morning, hard shower at 11 <sup>k</sup>, hoeing cotten this side Little creek bad stand on 15 acres But remarkable fine Cotten, will avreage knee high over the Whole place & as well set as can be, middles broke out grass not dead. Looks Very Bad "all below," Tie Vines and fine grass Very thick evry Where, intend starting scrapers two furrows in a row close to the cotton ahead of the hoes, hard shower at 12 <sup>k</sup> - Finished Breaking out middles all except Clark place

14 Clear pleasant morning started 10 scrapers a head of hoes above, running one Furrow round young corn - all my Corn Looks excepting Pond cut injured in some way - Have got more Crabb grass in cotten than I ever had, perfect mat in some places all the flat Level places

15 Clear warm morning, Light Fogg

16 Few clouds, warm - ploughing out middles at Clark place, scrapers & hoes in upper field Cotten Look<sup>s</sup> uncom<sup>n</sup> fine evry Where, corn improved silking &c. Black Smith here

17 Clear warm - ploughing corn in bottom field one furrow, quit Clark field, 1/2 done

18 Clear pleasant morning - Finished hoeing 3<sup>d</sup> time all above (except 15 acres young cotten) by Breakfast, scrapers & hoes in P R. new ground

19 Clear pleasant morning - throwing four furrows to the middle<sup>s</sup> in Penrice bottom broke out When Very wet grass all matted against the cotten, hoeing behind the ploughs

20 Clear pleasant morning, Went to Town, Provisions getting down again, Finished ploughing Clark place second time (out)

21 Clear Very hot day. Light shower yesterday, Mrs Joer here since yesterday, Boys & Mr. Hurlburt gone Fishing in the River "to day" - Emily not so well, sent for Dr King

22 Clear Very warm, corn wants rain Very much. cotten will suffer for it before many days, ground Very dry, 3 miles above me they have had no rain. Corn Literally burnt up

23 Clear morning, 11 scrapers running 17 Ploughs - shower rain at 6 O<sup>k</sup> this evening - started scrapers at Gibson place - ploughing a head of hoes. running the Bar (one furrow) next to the cotten, & Breaking out entire

24 Clear . Very warm morning two hands getting well curling since yesterday- 200 acres grassy old & young grass, 100 acres vines & fine grass, Cotten Looks Very fine, corn fine beginning to want rain Very much

25 Clear, ground as dry as can well be - Hoeing at Gibson place, Finished ploughing all Home by . . . O<sup>k</sup> 104 ploughing Gibson place since dinner sprinkle rain from 1/2 5 till dark. hard rain over the creek & towards Town, rode over Miss Swifts crop this morning. two third Very fine

26 Clear cool pleasant morning Jno. B. Dawson Died yesterday Lingering for Long time. the Member of Congress from this District - W<sup>m</sup> H B. & Eliza here to day, Clifford sick since yesterday stoped scrapers Finished ploughing G. place out second time by 4 O<sup>k</sup>

27 Clear morning, 8 scrapers in new Land 17 Ploughs above, hoeing above want rain Very much both corn & cotten. Cotten from knee to Breast high, grown too fast. dry weather will injure it Very materially

28 Clear Very Hot, warmest morning this year, suffering Very much for rain, cotten must shed every thing But Bolls rain or not

29 sprinkle rain at 2 O<sup>k</sup> heavy rain North East & West. Very hard wind here - Cloudy damp morning

30 Ploughing new Land above hoeing Gibson place, James taken sick yesterday, Light shower at 4 O<sup>k</sup> hard rains all round

July 1 Cloudy warm Finished hoeing cotton 3<sup>d</sup> time (excepting Clark place) by 10 O<sup>k</sup> ploughing allso, Cotton at this time as fine as can be, from knee to shoulder high well Bolled & formed. Thundering & Dark clouds in the West at Dark

2 Cloudy at 5 O<sup>k</sup> Clear at 6, & warm - Ploughing young corn in Bottoms, Looks Very fine, Bad stand, old corn all most past recovery, all thin spots burnt nearly to the Top - sprinkle rain at 4 O<sup>k</sup> "cool"

3 Cloudy damp & warm - Finished hoeing cotton third time except Clark place. & 100 acres 4<sup>th</sup> time by O<sup>k</sup> working young corn in the Bottoms, Looks very fine, bad stand in parts of it, Corn nearly past recovery for want of rain, cotton most of it, wants rain badly - Bottom field com Very fine. (Boat corn) regret not planting my own kind, thought it too Late - one Fodder crib full one small corn crib 1/2 Full & 3 or more grindings in Large crib

4 Cloudy Very warm - quite unwell - Very hard rain below. poor affair of July Frolic in Town

5 Cloudy Very warm - sprinkle rain from 4 O till night. Gave the negros a dinner- Emily quite unwell, Mrs Joor & Mrs Flower came down

6 Cloudy Very warm Emily Better, some better myself - Emily confined to day - Fine daughter. several showers (Light)

7 Clear pleasant. D<sup>r</sup> King here Last night, Emily doing Very well, hoeing Clark place, Ploughing old Land above, not near enough rain for corn. if it is past recovery, Very hard rain at 3 O'clock

8 Clear Very warm. Working sugar cane, too wet to plough, sprinkle for minute or so

9 Clear Very warm, D<sup>r</sup> & Mrs King here this morning Mrs Joor & Mrs Flower, & Jno Mayrant, Emily still quite unwell, Infant better since day Light, Feele (myself) Like getting well again &c.

10 Cloudy Very Hot morning warmest morning this summer, running 10 scrapers ahead of the Hoes at Clark place, Finished by 11 O<sup>K</sup> 12 Ploughs above, never had as fine or a better crop First rate every Where, part of old Land in front of the House high as my head rows nearly Locked, well branched & Bolled - several sick - Emily much better than yesterday, sprinkle rain at 4 O<sup>K</sup> heavy rain in sight

11 Cloudy Damp morning, Hoeing young corn, Looks well

12 Cloudy Very warm, Light shower on part place

13 Clear pleasant West wind all day, Emily much improved

14 Cloudy Very warm - Mrs Joor & Mrs Flower Left this morning, Mrs Flower mad eternally contradicting me, Came to Very Blunt words, yesterday her servant girl was saucy to Amanda James gave her two Light Licks & such a crying! Mrs Joor observed the Girl forget herself thought she was talking to negro<sup>s</sup>. A Fine Compliment indeed, Emily much better, son John taken sick "slight" yesterday evening, sent for Sister Ann - she came this evening

15 Clear Very warm, wind West. pulling Fodder, Very Little old enoughf, corn ruined for want of rain, 8 hands sick, great many children, first sickness

16 Clear Very warm (or Hot)

17 Clear pleasant morning, several Very sick negros, stoped the Ploughs to Pull Fodder, scrapers running at Gibson place, Emily improving slowly. Funeral sermon to day in Town to Genl Jackson by Rev. M. Nicholson of N. Orleans. Very Hard on all Lower part Place, Light rain on part above, sprinkly towards Ruffins, Caught great deal Fodder down - D<sup>r</sup>King here this evening Emily quite unwell since 10 Ok

18 Few clouds damp morning, Emily Better this morning, relieved by Blister &c. scrapers in corn Land above, never saw as fine a cotten crop as I have, every spot first rate, one crib (Fidder crib) of corn & one third of small crib, my crop of corn is better than I thout. some very fine

19 Clear pleasant morning. Pulling Fodder, Corn much better than I thought, By Letter from New Orleans Learn much better prospects now I think will make near 700 Bales of 400 lbs Cotten opening in new Land

20 Heavy thunder in the East, & rain at dark



21 Clear Very pleasant morning, sun Hot, all hands pulling Fodder, Cotton opening rather Fast, Sister Ann still here nursing Emily & Baby Fine rain this afternoon - Mrs Haile came down this morning

22 Clear warm - pulling Fodder, scrapers running above, never saw as regular cotton as Lane place new ground. evry stalk Loaded & none missing - Sister Ann Left for sister Eliza's yesterday evening 3 children very ill, Eugene not expected to Live an hour as I hear this morning - several Very sick negro children this morning - Eliza<sup>s</sup>. Eugene died this morning 9 OK

23 Clear, excessively Hot night. Mr. Chainey of E. Feliciana here, Let him take my stallion Jo<sup>s</sup> Bell out with him to stand this Fall<sup>105</sup>

24 Clear, pure dry wind from the North, Finished Pulling Fodder by 4 OK scrapers in Penrice Bottom, Hands on the swamp road yesterday, 4 to get Pickets for Cause way, one Cart to day & one hand with it - Cotton opening Very fast, wants rain very much, owing to the constant wind, negros Very sickly - Emily<sup>s</sup> mind seems Very much effected Flighty &c. Mrs Joor Mrs Flower & Mrs Haile here. Dr King & sister here - he thinks Emily<sup>s</sup> situation proceeds from weakness

25 Clear cool morning - Emily Little Better Lost all recollection of the Past

26 Clear Very Hot, stoped scrapers running Ploughs in the middles, hoeing new ground this side Little creek, uncom<sup>n</sup> fine cotton, Want rain Very much - Cousin Olivia over this morning

27 Emily Very Low

28 Cloudy Very warm, Emily Taken Quinine & morphine and all stimulants the stomach will bear, I think is on the mend again, sprinkle rain

29 Cloudy Very hot, Emily Little improved, Cusin Olivia sit up with me last night - Taken the Baby off from her, up stair woman Sidney nursing it Looks badly, Mrs Joor (Mrs Haile) & Mrs Flower (Attending to it) Nursing Emily, not to her likeing I know, but Hope for the Best, Began Picking cotton to day, woman & Boys &c. great deal Open - crop still unco<sup>n</sup> fine - good season would make 700 Bales if able to pick it fine shower "at noon" for cotton

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<sup>105</sup> See Louisiana Chronicle, Aug. 21, 1841.

30 Cloudy Very warm Emily Very ill during the first part of the night, sent for Dr King seems composed but not as well as she was yesterday, Began the mercurial Friction to salivate her if possible, I think her situation very dangerous - the Baby begins to improve - A new dream seems to have come over Mrs Joor, moes Like a new being this morning had & done several things quite off hand, And Appears highly Flattered at the result of her efforts, Better Late than never, All hands on the roade this morning, Others Picking Cotten

31 Clear Very cold N. Wind Emily much improved this morning, Cousin Olivia with her Last night, sister here this morning

August 1 Clear Very cold disagreeable morning, Emily salivated - Better &c. Finished working the road yesterday, Picking Cotten making scaffolds &c. several negro<sup>s</sup> pretending sick, Very unfavorable weather for cotten, dry cold N. East wind to day

2 Clear Very Hot & dry

4 Cleat Very Hot, & cold nights Began Ginning to day Cotten Litterally dried up Looks like rust or struck by Lightning - Ploughing piece cotten below the House

5 Clear Very Hot evry thing Looks burnt up, Ploughed Clarke place, Emily Better to day some hopes of her recovery, change of diet been feeding her, now on Arrow root & Gum water to relieve the irritability of the stomach, the matter all this time, the Dr thought it mere nervous & would go off with strength, couldnt strengthen with it

6 Clear Very warm morning. Dr King and I had quite a dispute last night he denying my ever telling him he ought to Blister her, or that she was so previous to her present situation determined he shall occupy his true position

7 Clear warm day, hands not Picking well, Very clean cotten, never in my Life saw such Bad effects from dry weather on crops, Emily improving

8 Dropping rain, hard rain below, threatning here, Very warm Picking Clean Cotten - crop has Fallen off more than any one I ever had - thought would certainly make 700 Bales. now think if I make 500 will do well - Emily<sup>s</sup> strength Very much improved, Cousin Olivia has taken the Bany over to her House, sister Ann returned Home this morning, Good news from Europe for the cotten planters- Larger sales during one week

than ever before known "60.000 Bales." great demand evry  
Where for goods, immense increase in consumption 9000  
Bales weakly increase - two fine showers - worked road in  
the field

9 Cloudy Very warm, Pressed 16 Bales fine cotten, Emily  
improving slowly - Hard rain at 4 O<sup>K</sup> wind from the North, Mrs  
Haile & Mrs Flower Left for Woodville this morning early, sis-  
ter Ann returned to stay & nurse Emily &c. several sick  
negro\$

10 Cloudy Very warm, shower afternoon, Emily not so well

11 Cloudy Very damp, sprinkle rain, hoeing 'till dinner,  
Charles House Burned down, Emily much worse to day, I Fear  
will never recover, A hard thought

12 Clear morning pleasant. Emily<sup>s</sup> Better to day, Fine  
shower at 12, All to no purpose I fear, cotten too near dead,  
Sister Eliza here to day, Looks Badly, so much sickness &  
Loss in her family &c.

13 Foggy warm morning, Emily Passed a Very Bad night, A  
wonder to me how she has been able to stand so much, Giving  
her nothing but nourishment, and applying external remedies -  
Leeched freely on the Head this morning

14 Clear Warm, west wind Emily really Looks better  
nothing seems to be the matter But her Head Brain & deler-  
ious for 3 weeks past, Cousin Olivia over this morning, says  
the Baby is improving, Amamd (Ruffins) is perfectly delighted  
with it, does all the nursing

15 Cloudy & Foggy morning, Cleared off Very Hot & dry  
North wind, Crop literally ruined 1/2 grown Bolls opening,  
Emily Looks as if some improvements had taken place, excepting  
mentally, her eyes Appear crossed Very weak &c. Dr King  
thinks she is certain to recover provided no organic injury  
in the action of the Heart - her Paroxisms ar shorter and  
more Light

16 Clear excessively Hot, Betsey Ratliff here all day,  
Emily improving

17 Clear pleasant morning, Emily improving, sprinkle rain

18 Clear Hot since yesterday, Emily Very sick Last  
evening from excitement of my Whipping Daughter Amanda,

unexpected, And never more miserable in my Life, till I saw her in a sound sleep from 11 O<sup>k</sup> till 1/2 5 this morning she seems as usual this morning, free from any more excitements will pass off I hope without any future injury, Evry thing Burning up for want of rain none to do any good for near two months, great quantity cotten open, nearly all dead, Goods news from England two Last acct<sup>s</sup> immense sales & unprecedented demand evry way, some consolation

19 Clear. Hot, night<sup>s</sup> Very hot hands Picking Very well, Emily Passed a good night - improving slowly, Very weake.

20 Clear pleasant from 3 O<sup>k</sup> in the morning untill 9 O<sup>k</sup> after that as hot as can be, evry thing Burnt up, Emily still mending slowly, sister Eliza with me Last night, great deal of Cotten open I am told, been in the House now 8 weeks as nurse, two of my children went Home with Eliza

21 Clear Very Hot, I thought Emily would certainly Die Last night. all the family here expecting it, in a deep sleep now from morphine, Gods knows how Long she may Live

22 My Beloved wife died this morning seven Oclock, Leaving six children, I feel as tho she could have been saved by proper medical aid, yet I have had all ways more confidence in Dr King than any man I ever knew, Deep seated injury for years no doubt, And her delicate situation prevented much that might other wise have been done - & then her confinement thought all would be well and Looked som from week to week But Alas, how uncertain, my poor children seem ten thousand times more Dear to me, And as all I can now do for her that was nearer to them & me is to carry out her dearest wishes. to deceive her I will not, though painfull the Loss - she could not speak for days distinctly. yet Whispered my dear children & gave us a dying kiss, perfectly sensible, Enough with the deepest prayer for her & her Little ones. I close this, God Bless her,

Bennet H. Barrow

23 If Mrs Haile will consent to Live with me will Feel Great relief, as Emily knew her Kind Feelings And often Expressed her Love for her And her only. the pledge on my part will be carried out, in fact it is all that seems to support me, When I reflect & see the situation of my children.

24 I feel relief only When an opportunity offers to do something that would be pleasing to Emily, to marry only according to her wishes, the Very idea of it makes me sick & miserable, would never have thought of such a thing at this time, only it comes in connection with other wishes of hers

26 Cloudy evry thing Burnt up, Cotten nearly dead too Late for rain to do me any good, great deal open, over 100 Bales out, sister Ann putting evry thing to rights for me, sister Eliza here today, I feel a Load that<sup>s</sup> much too heavy for me carry Long Where ever I turn my Eyes Emily is there to see my Little innocent children in perfect happiness & she the most dear not present to enjoy it, is too severe for poor creature Like me, I must have them round me, than I Look for her sweet smile oh God

27 Few clouds Very warm

28 Cloudy Very warm - Hands Picking well avreageing over 200, 3 or 4 sherk<sup>s</sup> sold 14 Bales cotten sent down ten days Ago. "Gined as picked from the field" at 9 1/8 <sup>c</sup>. Sisters Martha & Eliza with me Last night, sister Ann still here

29 Cloudy warm

30 Cloudy Very Hot. Hands Picking finely, Hard rain at 5 Oclock

31 Cloudy very warm - showers during the morning never feared a rain as much as at this time, at least 200 Bales open, hangs out & easier to Fall than I ever knew it, over 150 Bales out, 56 Pressed, 90 Gined, 20 wet, Hard rain from 12 to near 2 O<sup>k</sup> Went over to Ruffins 1<sup>st</sup> time way from home in near 3 months

September 1 Cloudy Very warm - shiped to day 43 Bales in all, Picking Gibson place Very White, Cotten dead all Leaves off, Early Cotten, Late Cotten seems to be doing Best, Between 170 & two hundred Bales out, one Fodder Crib of corn, (old), neber saw as clean cotten picked as Ruffin has, and only clased 1/4 p.c. higher than my own, he avreageing 150lb my hands over 200<sup>lb</sup> - & none at the scaffold, sprinkle rain at 4 O<sup>k</sup>

2 Cloudy threatning rain, Wind pleasant & from the North since 10 Oclock, Hands picking trashy cotten, Ginney Jerry still runaway, misfortune seems greater & greater evry day, to think of the society of her that was nearest & dearest for 15 years, all most drives me mad, no one to sympathize with, or enjoy the pleasures of this world, the children<sup>s</sup> merry Laughf all brings the severest pangs, enghf - Very hard rain, worked road in the field

3 Damp heavy Foggy, warm, rain at noon, working about Gin house, women spinning, Very hard rain at dark

4 Dark, cool morning. as Gloomy Looking as can well be - 88 Bales Pressed, several sick, sent after a Pack of negro dogs to hunt my Man Ginney Jerry, Raining hard steady after 12 O<sup>k</sup> spinning trashing cotten &c. I really feel as tho I could not bear up against my misfortune, gets worse & worse

5 Damp Cloudy & cool morning, Sister Ann still with me, putting evry thing to rights, clothing &c. Robt. J. Barrow child died at Covington Kentucky, poor Robert seems particular unfortunate, tho if he could see my situation house full of Little ones, he would think his situation the Best, rainy day, strange to day found by Opening a Letter in one of my Drawers the notes of the Miss Swifts in their own Letter, Mistook the Letter, opened it to day thinking it was one of Col Clark, never trust my memory again, caused me more uneasiness than any act of my Life, Fortunately arranged their business without it, the Man owning the negro dogs called by this morning

6 Cloudy Very warm - The negro hunters came this morning, Were not out Long before we struck the trail of Ginny Jerry, ran and trailed about a mile treed him, made the dogs pull him out of the tree, Bit him very badly, think he will stay home a while, never saw such trailing as one of his sluts did, raining evry day since Jerry Left his camp Monday, & they trailed him by Bushes, to his new one & caught him, Very hard rain at 2 O.

7 Clear but heavy fogg, Warm, Very hard rain at 12 O<sup>k</sup> took the children up to Eliza' this evening

8 Clear pleasant morning. Heavy Fogg, worked road out to Big road, Cotten sprouting in the field, Picking since Breakfast

9 Clear Pleasant North wind, Went over to Ruffins with children - Heavy rain towards Town - Hands Picking Very Badly & as trashy as can be

10 Clear Very warm, Cotten Very Rotten, Cotten Falling 1/2 pr ct. no demand as yet, no shipping in the Port of N.O. Rain as hard as could Pore from 12 to near 3 O<sup>k</sup> ruined me

11 Clear pleasant morning, By Letter yesterday Learn that cotten has fallen 1/2 cent, Hoed 'till 9 O<sup>k</sup>. Picking Cotten since - sun Very Hot, hard rain for short time after 3 O<sup>k</sup> showers during the afternoon

12 Clear warm morning, Am Loosing more by rains now that I ever Lost in comparison to the crop.

13 Clear fine morning. if it will only hold so, to see such fine morning and my reflection of What would & ought to be the enjoyments of all this House, were things different, Gives me a heavy Heart, God knows I feel it if ever man did, a childless man might drown his feelings in great many ways

14 Cloudy cold North East wind Cleared off. Like winter

15 Clear cold morning, Like winter - Ruffin sent word over he had the chill again Last night for want of good Purge &c. Jno Mayrant here

16 Few clouds, cold morning, Time grows heavier on me, Good news of the cotten market. can't enjoy it, good news seems to sit heavier on me That bad news, Oh that Emily was alive & here - went down to the plantation of the Miss Swifts & Mrs A. G. Barrow<sup>s</sup> evry thing going on well - dined with Jno Mayrant at Mrs Joors

17 Clear morning. weather moderating, some Where about 250<sup>0</sup> Beales out, Ben.. Joor came down

18 Few clouds, pleasant

19 Few clouds Very warm - summer day, several sick, Old Byrnes returned yesterday - Looks in much better health, droped rain

20 Cloudy damp morning, Ben. Joor & M<sup>r</sup>. Byrns Left before day this morning, Light showers through the day - Pressing.

21 Hard rain Last night. Turning quite cold. North wind - Several sick

22 Clear Quite cold.

23 Clear, Fire comfortable, not as cold as yesterday morning Peter Joor to see me

24 Clear pleasant, Mrs Joor came down 22<sup>d</sup> P Joor left this morning took with him my Leviathan Colt, 4<sup>y</sup>s old, Very fine horse. Hands Picking Badly. few exceptions Lize, Betsy & Margaret, Atean Dennis L Fanney Bella &c.

25 Clear, cool early, pleasant after 8 O<sup>k</sup>, D<sup>r</sup> King called this morning

26 Clear pleasant, Cousin Olivia and Amanda "with my poor

Little Daughter" spent the day with me yesterday, she has the Eyes of her poor Mother, to Look at her makes me most miserable, knowing how much she has lost and the pleasure my Dearest wife would have had in her — God protect her with the rest

27 Clear cool morning, Went to Town a Police Juror children left at sister Martha's Quite unwell yesterday & to day

28 Cloudy warm & damp East wind, threatning rain, Ruffin over this morning, his Boy Henry ran off from him this morning, sent up after the negro dogs.

29 Raining in Torrents. one of Robert H. B negro<sup>s</sup> ran off & came to me this morning, took him Home, Ruffin sent for me to join him in the hunt after his Boy Henry, rain too hard to trail it off Where he was seen the morning before

30 Cloudy Very Hot, out after the Ruffins Boy, satisfied he has made for A Barrows place on the coast

October 1 Few clouds pleasant, wind N. East, J Mayrant here

2 Cloudy damp & cool - Mrs Joor Left for Woodville this morning - James & Clifford went to Town shopping

3 Cloudy cool East wind, damp, shower at 12 Ok went over to Ruffins with 3 children - Cousin Olivia has offered to cut & make my children<sup>s</sup> cloths, Poor Emily has Left some friends to see after her poor Little ones

4 Cloudy pleasant, Good news from Europe, Cotten improved  $1\frac{1}{4}^c$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}^c$ , Mayrant & Hurlburt gone Fishing to the River, Picking Cotten as trashy as can be, 179 Bales Pressed 200 or more Gined in N<sup>o</sup> - over 350 Bales out - Cleared off at 3 Ok wind North

5 Cloudy quite cold N. East wind, went up to sister Eliza<sup>s</sup> yesterday, my crop will fall "150 to 200 Bales" short of What I thought in July

6 Clear quite cold morning

7 Cloudy damp morning threatning rain, 198 Bales Pressed, 179 shipped to day - shower at 10 Ok Hands picking Low weights, for some time past, Very thin Cotten, not more than two weeks picking, poore crop

8 Dark Foggy & warm morning sprinkly rain at day Light, had quite a Frolick with my saddle Horse, afraid of an umbrella, roped him 'till he seemed used to it, on getting of



at the Gin house, fastened it through the Circingle and a way he went ran under the Gin House & out never stoped 'till it was torn to pieces, gentled him before I quit, scares at nothing on the ground ride over any thing or by it, Oh that I could recall 15 years of my Life, happiness seemed at an End for me, poor Boys seem still to feel their Loss - Cleared off pleasant

9 Clear Very pleasant, went over to Ruffins this morning. Little daughter well & improving - & son Hilliard fell out of the Buggy from carelessness of girl Aggy

10 Foggy morning Pleasant, Picking Cotten at Clark place since yesterday, Went to B. J. B & called by Dr Bell<sup>s</sup> yesterday Evening, Bennit Very Low spirits nervous dispepsia debility &c.

11 Few clouds in the East. turned Very cold after dark "Last evening" hard wind from the North, Quite cold this morning, Rece<sup>d</sup> acc<sup>t</sup> sales of 36 Bales cotten at 8<sup>c</sup> poor sale. sold in all 108 Bales - 200 shiped, went over to Ruffins - went to his river place. never saw as fine cotten as White as ever I saw any, 90 Bales to evry 100 hundred Acres open now, picking that, the Army worm Began their two days past, to night will stope them

12 Clear Very cold Frosty morning Thermometer indicates winter, 42 at 7 Oclock, Putting Hogs &c.

13 Clear cold morning delightfull day, Frost this morning Light. no injury to any thing, Hands picking Very Badly

14 Clear very pleasant, my Driver Alfred with two Boys, (Ben & Jack) caught a dog killing one of my Hogs on the creek 1 Ok Last night. Belongs to Mrs Sterlings negro got off &c. Leake sent me word one of his negro being caught yesterday, & that he knew Where Ruffins & Williams H. Boys were, went over, &c. Ruffins Boy was seen at Home yesterday

15 Clear cold morning, Hunting Ruffins Boy Henry, Came across Williams runaway Caught him Dogs nearly et his legs off - near killing him - stand at Uncle Bats

16 Clear Very cold morning - took short hunt for Henry Gentleman from Mi - came after the dogs has sold them for \$650 to a resident of this Parish. Mr Conant heard allso that his partner "& relative" Crane was killed by a negro day before yesterday, the negro was shot immediately, Crane had the Best part of the pack, Conant will return here with them,

Left 3 dogs with Ruffin - Sister Ann here - Charles & wife & his Mother arrived from Carolina yesterday, Brought the remains of R. J. B child - Pulling Hay two days past

17 Clear pleasant - Sister Ann took daughter Amanda up to Eliza<sup>S</sup> with her, Picked some Cotten before dinner, pulling Hay, cotten Looks rusty from Frost, shipped 233 Bales.

18 Cloudy in the South & East, cool, Hurlburt & mayrant gone Fishing. James gone Duck hunting, Feel quite unwell for two days<sup>S</sup> past, effect of negro hunting, shipped 238 Bales - 5 Bales sent by McCrindle to test my Merchants, sales &c. Went to Ruffins & Williams

19 Cloudy Very warm morning, threatning rain, delighted with old Aunt Hunter, the old time candour & goodness, seems a grand mother to all

20 Cloudy warm - Pulled Bottom field corn

21 Cloudy Quite cold, Gathering Peas

22 Clear Quite cold, Picking cotten since yesterday 9 O<sup>k</sup>, Finished hawling in bottom field corn turned out well - great many pumpkins Went down to Miss Swifts, they are making Better crops than usual, Robert J. Barrow (& Lady) returned Home Monday evening, R. quite sick. Traveling dont seem to agree with Him, son Hilliard with Fever two days past cutting Jaw Teeth

23 Clear Very pleasant - never made as many pumpkins as I have in the Bottom field, Plenty of corn Pumpkins Peas & Potatoes, Can't Enjoy it. to think What pleasure it would have afforded poor Emily nearly runs me crazy, the children all seem happy, so ordained by nature, Gods will be done but sincerely wish things were as they were, evry Where I turn I miss her. dreary is my lot, the world is cold and selfish, if I could only Believe we were to meet hereafter would give me great relive

24 Cloudy damp & warm - threatning rain - clear after noon

25 Cloudy damp morning M<sup>r</sup> Mayrant & Hurlburt gone Fishing 14 miles off - Very Little Cotten to pick, scattering on part upper side plantation & Clark place two days picking, not over 10 Bales, will make "I think" between 450 & 500 Bales of 400 lbs thousands of corn & pumpkins Peas & seven Bales to the hand, not so Very Bad a crop after all, James & John gone Duck hunting to Rat<sup>S</sup> Lake, Son Hilliard suffered Very much from cutting his Jaw Teeth, Fever &c.

26 Clear pleasant

27 Clear pleasant. Went with the negro Dog<sup>s</sup> to Hunt Ruffins runaways, & his small house boy Ed. ran off still out, 12 yrs of age - no Luck - negro dog<sup>s</sup> here tired of them

28 Clear pleasant, Mayrant getting a Gig (for fish,) made by Mr Crane - the negro hunter, Jno Joor returned Home last week disgusted with the North, Robert J. B Home quite sick B. J. B. became a perfect child hippo, Dog men Left.

29 Cloudy in the North, pleasant. went up to R. J. B. found him better

30 Cloudy Very warm - cotten falling, went to Town, called by Mr Turnbolls, Began raining at 10<sup>o</sup>k Left there in the rain. the road one perfect sheet of water evry place up got over the Big creek, found the creek here impassable - tried for Roberts couldnt get over Granch in Courtneys Land, returned & spent the night with Mrs Sterling.

31 Cloudy returned Home early this morning, never saw appearance of a harder rain than fell here yesterday - R H B caught here Last night

November 1 Cloudy warm, Very hard rain from 9 'till 12 0<sup>o</sup>. spinning, trashing cotten &c. the Blacksmith here making Wedges Fish Gigs. tire on cart &c.

2 Clear pleasant pleasant morning D<sup>r</sup> King here last night. M<sup>r</sup> Hurlburt gone shooting & Giging Fish - Hurlburt got Lost in the swamp been the road to the lake 6 times, no woods man - B J B. & Lade over this evening

3 Clear cold, went to Town Voted for Harmanson for Congress & for accepting the new constitution, a poor one at that - Mrs Haile & Mrs Flower came to see me this evening - Mrs H. Looks Very much Like Emily, I can't but feel a great attachment for her, was Very Kind & willing to do all she could during Emily<sup>s</sup> illness. God Bless her

4 Clear cold morning. Heavy dew or Fogg. prevented White frost

5 Clear pleasant

6 Cloudy warm & Foggy morning D<sup>r</sup> King & sister here since yesterday, Went up to R. J. B found him fretting with a colt

7 Cloudy damp & Heavy fogg, M<sup>r</sup> Hurlburt Gided ( in the Lake) the largest Buffalo Fish I ever saw, weighing 25<sup>lb</sup> Getting out Timber for Houses & well. splitting rails trashing cotten.

8 Cloudy Very cold North wind Attended a Family meeting at Mrs Wades. Accepting for her children, succession &c.

9 Few clouds in the East Very cold, Mrs Haile & Mrs Flower spent yesterday at Ruffins

10 Thin clouds very Cold - sister Eliza here, Mrs Haile has consented to Live with me I feel like a new being, A Better woman never lived & one as near to me as one can be now, The fondness for children like my Dearest wife, Gathering corn all hands 3 carts &c. Cloudy afternoon

11 Raining at day light, Cleared off at 11 O<sup>k</sup> Mrs. Haile & Mrs Flower left for Woodville, D<sup>r</sup> K & sister here last night, the negro dogs to Mrs Wade<sup>s</sup> Quarter, went through Ruffins beyond & Back. gave up, Et dinner, concluded he had returned to Wades, Went in his pasture & 5 minutes had him up & a going, And never in my life did I ever see as excited beings as R & myself, ran 1/2 miles & caught him dogs soon tore him naked, took him Home Before the other negro at dark & made the dogs give him another over hauling, has been drawing a knife & Pistol on persons about Town &c.

15 Cloudy damp morning Went over to Ruffins this evening with the Children

16 Few clouds, pleasant Making the Largest crop of corn I ever made, more Hay & as much or more Fodder than usual - Poore crop of cotton, unless it had of been picked clean, make between 450 & 500 Bales

17 Cloudy warm morning Turned cool at 11 O<sup>k</sup> Joined

18 R. H. B to Hunt my Dogs after a Fox, he has nearly ruined them, Caught two Foxes

19 Clear cold day. Left Home for (Woodville) Mrs Joors Mrs Haile &c.

20 Clear Very cold, went up to Mrs Hailes on Buffalo creek 14 miles above Woodville

21 Clear pleasant returned to Mrs Joors from Buffalo

22 Cloudy sprinkle of rain, returned Home this evening, Light shower on us in open Barouch - Miss Swifts & Mrs Barrow returned Home first of this week, not seen them - Have undertaken Mrs Hailes Buisness, she is to Live with me

23 Haxy morning turned cold in the night after a light rain Made this year the Largest crop of corn I ever made 4 cribs full one Large fodder crib full, & one entry as much as one crib would hold, first rate corn, & great abundance of pumkins

24 Clear cold Frosty morning Building a canoe since yesterday, Crane & his negro dogs came this evening

25 Clear cold Frosty morning Turned warm after 10 O<sup>k</sup>, Began Digging Potatoes this morning turning out only tolerable

26 Cloudy threatening rain hawling Cotton to Rats Landing, 331 Bales Pressed in No. 350 Gined or more - Light rain & cold North West Wind, Quite a storm Went to Ruffins

27 Clear Very cold & Hard North wind, Returned Home this morning, killing Hogs

28 Clear cold Freezing day Went to Town with Ruffin - Bought 30 pair of French Blankets at \$3.50 & \$3.75 pr pair

29 Raining hailing & sleeting wind from the East, did not get through digging Potatoes, Bought 7 Barrels Prime Pork at \$12 pr Barrel - & still rising, Jno Mayrant Left here on Tuesday for a Fish. not returning I feel Very uneasy as he did expect to be gone more than next day, took no cloths or Gun - steady & hard rain all day

30 Cloudy misty & very cold N. wind Mayrant returned to day, Looks the picture of disappointment, Killed Seven more Hogs.

December 1 Cloudy Freezing day Went to Town ground Frozen all day Very severe on my horses feet. as he would breath would become frozen - Appointed Fore man of the Grand Jury

2 Clear Freezing day, evry thing Frozen, ice on the pond one inch thick

3 Cloudy misting, extremely cold East wind, attended the Grand Jury

4 Cloudy cold Freezing morning, Cleared off at 10 Ok. Sudden pain took me in my right side this morning, made a Lick at my cook at the time, Fear it is my Liver - Raised a Fodder House

5 Cloudy cold morning, My side still hurting When I move or Touch it.

6 Few clouds, pleasant day, Went To Town as Grand Juror

- 7 Hard rain at 1/2 7 O<sup>k</sup>. M<sup>r</sup> Hurlburt went yesterday to cut a way to Black Fork Lake. nearly Finished it, rainy during the day (Light)
- 8 Rainey & very warm - D<sup>r</sup> King here last night
- 9 Dark, cloudy morning, Went to Town as Juror - Began raining at 7 O<sup>k</sup>. hard & steady 'till night had a fine ride through mud and water, just able to pass the creek on returning, got through with all buisness for the Grand Jury - turning cold after 1 o<sup>k</sup>.
- 10 Cloudy & cold - Ruffin here yesterday, no one with him on his hunt up Red river, Killed 5 Deer
- 11 Mayrant waiting for a Fair day to cut a road (Boat) to get to the Lake, Cold rainy day, Mayrant went out Ducking in the rain. Killed 2 only for his trouble
- 12 Cloudy cold disagreeable day, Went out duck hunting, to see Mayrant, poor sport now a days, have a Very Bad head ache - nervous I presume - 387 Bales Pressed - 390 Gined in N<sup>o</sup> - 60 to Gin
- 13 Rainey day, not as cold as yesterday, M<sup>r</sup> Hurlburt returned to the Lake - spinning trashing Cotten & not much of any thing, Much disappointed Mrs Haile not coming down Looking for her for two weeks past, the weather now such as she cannot possible come, I feel her absence Very much, nearer to me through my Beloved wife than any one else, will be as a kind Mother to My poor Little ones, a better headed woman never lived, Like myself can feel Deeply for the misfortunes of others, tho her happiness never was eaquel to my own
- 14 Damp Foggy & warm morning. The Boys gone to Black Fork Lak to shoot Ducks & Geese, Mayrant along - raining from 1 O<sup>k</sup> till night, Boys Left the Lake as soon as they got to it. Mayrant wouldent remain with them
- 15 Clear cold morning. cleared off Last night. I left home Before day for the Lake no Luck. killed several Geese & Ducks but couldent get them
- 16 Clear cold. Frosty & freezing morning, Mrs Haile came to day
- 17 Cloudy damp & cold East wind - Will give evry thing up to Mrs Haile to day, will use evry exertion to render her Happy & comfortable. the children all seem delighted
- 18 Cleared off cold - B J B here, & D<sup>r</sup> King

19 Clear cold Freezing morning Wild Pidgeon here this morning. sister Eliza here

20 Clear Freezing day, James & John Haile went to Town, nearly Frozen on their return

21 Clear cold Freezing morning trying My Best to rent a place for Mrs Haile, had of known her wishes earlier could have found a fine place on Thompson creek

22 Thin clouds pleasant day, Mrs Joor here Last night & Left this morning for Woodville, 415 Bales Pressed to day 35 or 40 to Gin

23 Rain at 7 O<sup>k</sup> Went to Town roads Very heavy, cotton improving in price, Talk of war has caused interest on money to advance rapid - 421 Bales Pressed

24 Cloudy cool damp morning, Clifford out Duck hunting with Mr. Mayrant, 10 days Ginning owing to Cotton being picked so trashy All most or is impossible to clean it done Getting Cotton a head of Gin<sup>s</sup> more plague than proffit

25 Cloudy damp & cold morning Clear after 3 O<sup>k</sup> negro<sup>s</sup> seen quite Lively, Mr. Hurlburt gone to New Orleans to day

26 Clear cold morning D<sup>r</sup> Holt of Woodville here to see Mr<sup>s</sup> Haile. rented his place

27 Clear Freezing morning - Boys went trading in Town yesterday for negros - W. H B here to day

28 Clear Very cold Freezing morning Ground as White as snow, James & John Began Fighting this morning - John<sup>s</sup> passion, he took a Loaded Gun to strike James with - their poor Mother seems easily forgotten - her wishes &c.

29 Clear cold Frosty morning, getting tired of Hollidays, negros want too much, Human nature

30 Cloudy damp morning, wind North after 10 O<sup>k</sup> Robert sent the dogs to me this evening, Look retched

31 Cloudy damp, Went out to see the cause of my Dogs doing so badly with Robert, all his bad management, started a cat ran 1/2 hour & treed, Rosalie & Amanda over with my Little daughter, not well

January 1, 1846 Raining and Very warm morning, Bad Beginning for New year, negros had a dinner yesterday, some danced all night,

those that did not will start to work this morning, But for the Apprehension of War, the prospects for the country are better than for many years, sugar planter all ready reaping immense profits, Cotton will pay a fair profit to those out of Debt, Produce Very high. Pork 15 & 16 Dollars pr Barrel, Flower \$6 & 7 - corn from 60 ¢ to 80 ¢ pr Bushel, Horses & Mules reasonable, Horses from 40 to 70 dollars. Mules some What higher, Will try and make 600 Bales Cotton this year with 68 hands, started all the hands that were not at the dance Last night to work at the Gin House, finding no Cotton to trash sent for the Fiddle And made them Dance from 12 till dark, other from the Quarter soon joined for the frolic & became quite Lively to the close - Names O Jacob O. Fill O. Ben O Judy, O Luckey, O. Hannah, Betsy, Bet, Cnadis, Creasey, Grace, Jensey, Margaret, Edny, Mary, B. Sidney, Luce, B. Cato L. Cato Randal, Fanney (Bats), Nancey

2 Clear Pleasant morning - Negroes ask to continue Holiday 'till Monday, not much to do

3 Few clouds, spring day.

4 Clear Hazy day, out Fox hunting caught Very Large Fox in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours run

5 Raining Hard at day Light Bad day for me to begin work as a new year, better ending I hope

6 Damp Cloudy morning, Ground Very wet, Pressed yesterday trashing cotton spinning &c. sent an overseer "Mr. Morella" up to Mr<sup>s</sup> Haile' place, wages \$550

7 Clear cold Frosty morning Caught a Fox this morning

8 Clear Very cold, started early this morning for Mrs Hails

10 Clear Very cold Freezing, returned from Mrs Haile this evening P. H. Joor with me, Mayrant along, killed quite a number of wild Pidgeons

11 Clear, Frost White as snow, Mrs Jno Joor & Mrs Flower here for some days

12 Clear Very cold, Went to Town, Finished Ginning, Bought Molasses at 24

13 Thin clouds East wind Very disagreeable, Went over to Ruffins to Breakfast, Getting ready to start 20 ploughs to morrow, Black smith here since yesterday



14 Cloudy, Began raining at 9 <sup>o</sup><sub>k</sub> "Very hard" P H Joor & family came to see us last night.

15 Dark misty morning, warm too wet to plough

16 Cloudy damp morning, P. H. Joor Left here for N. Orleans yesterday, His family here, Ruffin here yesterday, has a perfect mania for sugar determined to go at it. Cleared off at 2 <sup>o</sup><sub>k</sub>

17 Cloudy cold N. wind Dr King here last night, Went up to William H.

18 Cloudy cold East wind, R H came before day this morning went fox hunting shor time too cold

19 Raining and blwoing quite a storm from the East, Our Elections begin to day under the new Constitution, Pooring down rain

20 Cloudy pleasant W. wind some appearance of Breaking up

21 Cleared off cold N. wind Went to Town - Voted for Isaac Johnson & Landry for Governor & Liet. Governor, P Joor returned here from New Orleans yesterday started home with his family, turned back, creek &c. J" Joor here, Pork falling & cotten allso

22 Clear cold day. P H Joor started for Home - Mrs Flower returned here this morning - Ploughing 21 Ploughs for corn - 50 acres 3 furrows run for cotten

23 Clear cold day - Sam Marks a Low Gamlin Blagguard is elected as senator from this Parish "State" - Pressed out out in N<sup>o</sup> of crop 1845, 453 Bales, shortest crop I have made in many years.

24 Clear cold day - Went to Woodville on buisness for Mrs Haile, accepted her Debt payable on the 21/44 Nov. 46 for \$6218.67 - P H Joor Det same \$3135

25 Cloudy cool morning returned from Woodville to dinner

26 Cloudy, more like spring Finished ploughing old Land above for corn 150 Acres

27 Foggy Very damp morning Mrs Haile & Mrs Flower with

the children went to sister Eliza<sup>s</sup>. I went to Robert & B. J. B. saw Charles Hunter. Just returned from Carolina

28 Cloudy spring morning, 21 Double ploughs, running 2 furrow only for Cotten, 100 acres ploughed last night 2 & 3 furrows. 150 for corn - sucklers (spinning) & old women - hawling rails ought to be done now, intend Clearing Land, in case I take Mrs Haile' hands after this season should she be unable to Lease or buy a place

29 Cloudy, spring morning, never knew ground to plough better at this season of the year, 21 double ploughs running, 4 cribs of corn & 1/4 of small one - Killed this winter near 60 hog<sup>s</sup>. raining since 11 O<sup>k</sup>. Dr King & sister here to day also C. Hunter

30 Cloudy warm spring morning, hard rain Last night, planting Cherokee rose on the Line fence, 22 ploughs ruhning, ground Little wet - Cleared off warm

31 Clear cold morning, N. wind M<sup>r</sup>. Hurlburt gone to the Lake, I went to Ruffins. Little daughter improving Very much.

February 1 Clear cold Frosty morning, Mrs Flower left here yesterday

2 Clear cool morning, pleasant day, Went to Town Meat down to 10 & 11 1/2 dollars pr Barrel, 2 waggons hawling seed on corn land

3 Few clouds spring day, near 100 acres ploughed for Cotten on Lower side plantation, Pond cut ploughed When too wet, Ateans neglect, Part of the women cleaning up at Gibson place, 4 men clearing Land, Began hauling seed yesterday, 6 small Girls & boys carrying manure in the Garden, made new Fowl house

4 Few clouds, pleasant spring day one of Mrs Haile negro man Charles came Last night, will keep him here this year & plant the Clark place in corn for her in case she gets A. Barrow place next year

5 Cloudy, threatening rain, warm, Began raining at 2 O<sup>k</sup> (slow)

6 Appearance of rainy day, Very hard rain Last night, too it to plough - changed the road in P. R. bottom turned the iter along the road

7 Clear pleasant spring moming. Ploughing new Land this side little creek, James & Jno. Haile gone to Town

8 Cloudy warm - went to Ruffins to Breakfast to look at mules. R. just up from the City, Bad news. P H Joor here - Bought a Very fine Little Bay mare for Jno Haile, \$50 rides splendidly - rainy evening very cold

9 Clear cold morning, P. H. Joor Jno. Joor & M<sup>r</sup> Byrnes left here this morning - Mrs Haile missed 5 Pocket hand<sup>s</sup> found 2 in Mary<sup>s</sup> (yellow) Box gave her Very severe Whipping can't find the others so far

10 Cloudy cool threatening rain Ploughing Gibson' since yesterday morning - drizzling rain at 8 O<sup>k</sup> wind S. East, intended starting this morning for Mrs Hailes place

11 Cloudy pleasant. Appearance of Clearing off, M<sup>r</sup> Rowan of Mi here last night to hire negros of Mrs Haile, Cleared off. cool N. wind

12 Clear cool N. East wind - Finished ploughing all home (2 & 3 furrows) to day - excepting 25 acres bottom Land - Clark place to plough for corn & for Mrs Haile, And the Bottom field & Bottoms in the Bayou for corn - more forward than any year previous - started for Mrs Hailes place this morning "Mayrant with me" - reached there by 1/2 2 O<sup>k</sup> found evry thing going on well, never saw a finer day

13 Raining & cold N. E wind never knew a more sudden change returned home at dark - very heavy roads - & hard rain after we got in the house

14 Cloudy cold West wind, Mrs. Flower here since Thursday

15 Clear cold morning, Went Driving yesterday afternoon, no Luck, ploughing clark place, 4 furrow<sup>s</sup> yesterday

16 Clear cool still & pleasant morning, two of Mrs Hailes boys came down yesterday to work here, make corn at the Clark place, went over to Ruffins Finished ploughing Clark place

17 Cloudy pleasant, ready to start for New Orleans this morning with Mames John & John Haile. But P. H. Joor disappointed me, raining off since dinner Robt. H. B called this evening

18 Raining, warm, ground rather wet in poor places. Breaking out middles since yesterday 24 ploughs. Finished hawling out seed on corn, Clearing piece of Land in Pasture towards R. H. B. Cutting it up to Burn Bricks

19 Cloudy cool N. wind hard rain last night, P. H. Joor came Last night, Boys much pleased as they are very anxious to go to N. Orleans

March 9 Returned home this morning from N. Orleans, James stood his ride home better than I expected, never expected him to see home again, found Mrs Haile quite sick sore throat cold &c. Old Mrs Yates here, & Mrs Flower

10 Damp Foggy morning, Ploughing bottom field, Finished breaking out middles on Monday week ago, & planted corn last week, water furrow

## APPENDIX

## APPENDIX I

## MEMOIR OF THE BARROW FAMILY

Among the earliest of the English families to settle in the Florida parishes of Louisiana was one by the name of Barrow which came overland via Tennessee from North Carolina during the late 1700's.<sup>1</sup> Planters they had been, first in Virginia and later in the Carolinas, and planting was to be their vocation after their settlement in the famed land of Nueva Feliciana, a territory which at this time was under the political control of the Spanish. The family of William

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<sup>1</sup> This brief summary of the Barrow family is based on the following sources: "The Manuscript Memoir of the Barrow Family," written by John J. Barrow, the great-grandson of William Barrow, the common ancestor of the majority of the Barrows who came to Louisiana; "The Manuscript Memoir of the Barrow Family," by Martha Barrow Turnbull, written a few years prior to 1861; the Barrow Family Records, in the possession of Mrs. D. I. Norwood, Highland Plantation, Bains, Louisiana; the notes of Mrs. Leo Charles Browne, New Orleans, Louisiana, who has in preparation a history of the Barrow Family in America; the parish records of West Feliciana parish, in the parish courthouse, St. Francisville; Henry E. Chambers, A History of Louisiana. 2 vols. (Chicago, 1925); Stanley C. Arthur and George C. De Kernion, Old Families of Louisiana (New Orleans, 1931); Alcee Fortier, and others, Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana. 2 vols. (Chicago, 1892). Though many of the details recorded in the above secondary works are inaccurate, in general their contents corroborate the information secured from the various family records and the parish records at St. Francisville.

Barrow were the first settlers of that name, but they were soon followed by relatives, near and distant, until the name "Barrow" became a common one in the section.

The early history of the Barrow family in America is largely shrouded in the mystery of bygone years. There are, however, facts that are available to the chronicler, but even these almost imperceptibly blend into fragmentary and indefinite legends which in the course of time have found locale in the early colonial settlements in Virginia and the Carolinas. One historian narrates that the early Barrows were "descended from an old and distinguished family which came from England during Colonial days and settled in Virginia."<sup>2</sup> Be that as it may, the family legend relates that during the third decade of settlement in the Virginia colony two brothers appeared at the mouth of the James river and finally settled a plantation in Southampton county on the Nottaway river.<sup>3</sup> For a period they planted together, but one becoming dissatisfied, the partnership was dissolved, and he journeyed northward. Thomas Barrow remained in the Old Dominion for nearly a half century, dying at the advanced age of ninety years. He left three sons: Thomas, Simon, and

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<sup>2</sup> Chambers, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 185.

<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Leo Charles Browne is of the opinion that the Barrow coat-of-arms indicates that the brothers came originally from Northampton county, England. According to the legend the two brothers were runaways. John J. Barrow in his Memoir states that, "Why they ran away from England we have no evidence. If for crime they left their errors behind and grew to men of standing, having a large descent and as far as I know all maintained the name with pride and honor."

John. The second Thomas Barrow left the home plantation on the banks of the Nottaway soon after his father's death and took root in Edgecomb county, North Carolina. He was destined to become the common ancestor of the majority of the Barrows who later came to Louisiana.

Thomas Barrow married Elizabeth Atkins and they became the parents of four children: Jacob, James, Moses, and Sarah. The next Barrow of whom there is record was William, who, about 1760, shortly after settling in South Carolina, married Olivia Ruffin. He became a Revolutionary soldier, and, upon being wounded about 1777, moved back to Tarboro, Edgecomb county, North Carolina. His great grandson wrote, shortly after the end of the War for Southern Independence, that he believed his grandfather had been a descendant of either James or Moses Barrow.

Olivia Ruffin, prior to her marriage to William Barrow, had been the wife of a wealthy North Carolina planter who lived on the Roanoke river. Upon his death she came into possession of extensive properties and soon moved to South Carolina, probably Charleston, where she made her home until her second marriage. Her new husband was in all probability a typical planter of the region. He had large holdings and engaged not only in the practice of agriculture but, like many of the "Southrons" of his day, was interested in politics and for a time served as the sheriff of Edgecomb county.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Arthur and de Kernion, op. cit., p. 417.



He died on January 27, 1787, at the family estate near Tarboro, leaving a family of six living children: Robert (b. 1763); William (b. 1765); Bartholomew (b. 1766); Mary (b. 1771); Sarah (b. 1773); and Bennett (b. 1777).

Sometime between 1795 and 1798, the eldest sons of William Barrow heeded the call of the West, and with their mother's permission sold the family estates in the Carolinas. With their slaves and other property, they started for the famed lands of the Felicianas then in the control of Spain. They first halted at Nashville, Tennessee, but soon after moved southward to Natchez on the Mississippi. Here they established headquarters for the family while the lands were being chosen and surveyed and the titles secured from the Spanish government. It is not exactly known when they arrived at their new home on the banks of the Little Bayou Sar-a, but it is certain that they lived for a period in a shanty until the first home, "a mansion in the wilds," could be built. The date of the construction of the "Big House" on Locust Grove plantation, later re-named Highland, is uncertain. One family tradition gives the date as 1799, while the Memoir of John J. Barrow, the grandson of William Barrow, gives the date as 1805. At any rate, the location for the house had been chosen prior to 1803, for, upon the death of Olivia Ruffin Barrow in that year, she was buried in the family graveyard at Highland.

The members of the family soon acquired title to broad acres and shortly augmented the wealth brought from North Caro-

lina with additional wealth created from the wilderness. The head of the family was evidently the second son, William Barrow.

A man of sound business judgment, he soon acquired additional landed property and added numerous slaves to those brought from North Carolina. Like his father, he was interested in the political questions of the day and, when the troubles with the Spanish government came to a head in 1810, he became one of the leaders of the revolutionists who had their headquarters at St. Francisville. The end of the "Florida Rebellion of 1810" saw his return to planting. At his death in 1823 a summary of his estate indicates that he owned 7160 arpents of land which had been divided into six plantations, 348 slaves, and a total estate appraised at \$214,930.<sup>5</sup>83. An unusual feature of the inventory is the fact that he possessed a secretary and books valued at \$600--items that were perhaps not too generally found at the time in this section of Louisiana. The total value of his household goods was approximately \$3000.

William Barrow had been married in Halifax county, North Carolina, in 1792, to Pharaby Hilliard. To this union were born seven children: Robert Hilliard (b. 1795); Ann Nancy (b. 1797); William Ruffin (b. 1800); Bennett (b. 1803); Martha (b. 1809); Bennett Hilliard (b. 1811); and Eliza Eleanor (b. 1814). All settled near the family acres at Highland

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<sup>5</sup> Inventory Records, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana, Vol. A, pp. 327-42.

plantation. The youngest son, Bennett Hilliard, later became the writer of the present Diary. William Barrow died in 1823 at Washington, D.C., where he had gone to place his youngest son in school. His remains were removed from Washington by Bennett Hilliard in 1835 and interred in the family plot at Highland.

Many members of the Barrow family are still to be found in West Feliciana parish. Since the end of the War for Southern Independence, however, many have departed from the family headquarters at the original plantation on the waters of the Little Bayou Sara and have settled in other parts of the state. Most of the land held by the family during those fabulous ante-bellum plantation days is still in possession of the various descendants of William Barrow, and such plantation homes as Highland, Ellerslie, Ambrosia, Independence, Live Oak, Rosedown, Greenwood and Afton Villa, recall to mind that age of agricultural and plantation success, opulence, and good living before those halocostic days of the 1860's.

APPENDIX II

## INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF BENNETT H. BARROW \*

Succession of Bennett H.  
Barrow, deceased.

State of Louisiana  
Parish of West Feliciana

Be it Remembered, that on this the fourteenth day of June in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, I, Bertrand Haralson, Recorder in and for said Parish, duly commissioned and qualified Have attended this day, in pursuance to an order to me directed by Charles B. Collins, Clerk of the Seventh Judicial District Court in and for the said Parish, at the late residence of Bennett H. Barrow, deceased, in the Parish aforesaid for the purpose of making an Inventory and appraisement of all the property, real and personal, rights and credits, belonging to and composing the succession of Bennett H. Barrow, deceased; and did then and there proceed to make said inventory and appraisement of said property, having first appointed Robert I. Barrow and Robert H. Barrow, experts and appraisers of said property, and having caused the said Experts and appraisers to take and subscribe the following oath required by law, to wit:

State of Louisiana                      "We, Robert I. Barrow  
Parish of West Feliciana              and Robert H. Barrow,  
the above named Experts & appraisers, having been  
first fully sworn by the undersigned Recorder do  
make oath, that we will justly & impartially discharge & perform all the several duties incumbent on us as Experts & appraisers of all the property shown to be inventoried & belonging to the succession of Bennett H. Barrow deceased, to the best of our knowledge & understanding. So help us God.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 14th day of

June A. D. 1854    B. Haralson, Recorder.

Robt. I. Barrow  
Robt. H. Barrow

I, the said Recorder, notified Robert C. Wederstrandt and John Hunter Collins, both male residents of said Parish of the age of majority, to attend as witnesses, who

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\* Inventory Record, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville, Louisiana, Vol. G (1852-69), pp. 135-143.

attended and acted as such. --- I, said Recorder, notified W<sup>m</sup> R. Barrow, special Tutor to the minors, John I., Clifford, Amanda, Hilliard & Emily Barrow children of the said Bennett H. Barrow deceased, & his wife Emily Joor, --who attended. I, the said Recorder, notified Mrs. Nancy Barrow, widow of the said deceased, both in her own right, and as Tutris to her minor children Eliza Ann & Martha Allina, issue of her marriage with her said deceased husband, who did not attend. -- I also notified James Barrow, one of the forced heirs of full age, -- who attended.

The following is a true Proces Verbal of the Separate Estate of the deceased,

To wit:

A certain tract of land, with all the buildings & improvements thereon, known as the Home place containing about fourteen hundred arpents, and being composed of the following tracts or parcels of land, to wit:--The "Holmes" tract, supposed to contain One thousand arpents, -- The "Thomas M. Green" tract, containing two hundred & forty arpents; -- The "Bingaman" tract, containing one hundred and sixty arpents; -- which said Home place is bounded as follows, to wit: -- North by lands of Robert H. Barrow, West by William R. Barrow, on the South by lands of the said Barrow, as the "Gibson" tract, and East by the Little Bayou Sara Creek; -- which said lands & improvements were valued & appraised at the sum of forty-two thousand dollars \$42,000.00

Alfred, aged 49 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	(\$)	900.00
Betsy, aged 59 years, one hundred dollars		100.00
Kiah aged 40 years, valued at five hundred dollars		500.00
Willa, aged 30 years, valued at eight hundred & fifty dollars		850.00
Ben, aged 40 years, valued at nine hundred dollars		900.00
Candis, aged 40 years, valued at One hundred dollars		100.00
Isaac, aged 14 years, valued at Eight hundred & fifty dollars		850.00
		<u>\$46.200.00</u>

Stephen, aged 6 years, valued at two hundred 50 dollars		250.00
Rodem, aged 5 years, valued at two hundred dollars		200.00
Jack, aged 51 years, valued at eight hundred dollars		800.00
Eliza, aged 44 years, valued at five hundred dollars		500.00
Bazil, aged 20 years, valued at six hundred dollars		600.00
Little Cato, aged 37 years, valued at six hundred dollars		600.00
Hetty, aged 36 years, valued at five hundred dollars		500.00

Amos, an infant, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
Temps, aged 43 years, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
Lindy, aged 23 years, valued at seven hundred dollars	700.00
Virginia, aged 2 years, valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Sidney, aged 39 years, valued at six hundred & fifty dollars	650.00
Aggy, aged 20 years, valued at seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Angelle, an infant, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
Cynthis, aged 13 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Suckey, aged 9 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Spencer, aged 7 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
	<u>\$53.050.00</u>

Nelly, aged 5 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Litty, an infant, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
Rosiese, aged 4 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Fanny, aged 33 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Little Judy, aged 13 years, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
Ralph, aged 34 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Ester Jim, aged 34 years, valued at nine hundred & fifty dollars	950.00
Little Nancy, aged 18 years, valued at seven hundred dollars	700.00
Old Suckey, aged 56 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Rachael, aged 26 years, valued at Six hundred dollars	600.00
Emeline, aged 4 years, valued at one hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Essex, an infant, valued at One Hundred dollars	100.00
Mathew, aged 20 years, valued at eight hundred & fifty dollars	850.00
Israel, aged 37 years, valued at eight hundred dollars	800.00
Lucy, aged 71 years, valued at ten dollars	10.00
Lavinia, aged 31 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Annis, aged 13 years, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$60.610.00</u>

Polly, aged 8 years, valued at three hundred & fifty dollars	350.00
Caroline, aged 6 years, valued at Two hundred & fifty dollars	250.00

Josephine, aged 4 years, valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Angeline, aged 2 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Dave, aged 46 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Little Jim, aged 24 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00
Maria, aged 19 years, valued at six hundred dollars	600.00
Old Jimmy, aged 59 years, valued at five hundred dollars sic	005.00
Nat, aged 28 years, valued at Eight hundred & fifty dollars	850.00
Levy, aged 39 years, valued at four hundred & fifty dollars	450.00
Grace, aged 29 years, valued at six hundred dollars	600.00
Little Jack, aged 9 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Gilson, aged 7 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Edward, aged 2 years, valued at One Hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Dennis, aged 44 years, valued at nine hundred & fifty dollars	950.00
Ettienne, aged 37 years, valued at One thousand dollars	1.000.00
Margaret, aged 37 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$68.865.00</u>

Orange, aged 19 years, valued at eight hundred & fifty dollars	850.00
Minsy, aged 11 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Susan, aged 7 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Little Alfred, aged 6 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Hannah, aged 33 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Matilda, aged 15 years valued at five hundred & fifty dollars	550.00
Richard, aged 13 years, valued at five hundred & fifty dollars	550.00
Cornelius, aged 11 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Daniel, aged 9 years, valued at three & fifty dollars	350.00
Charity, aged 5 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Jacob, aged 3 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Tempe, an infant, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
Louis, aged 33 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00

Dorcas, aged 32 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Dice Nat, aged 33 years, valued at nine hundred & fifty dollars	950.00
William, aged 14 years, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
Grace, aged 9 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$77.165.00</u>

Dicy, aged 4 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Randel, aged 1 years, valued at one hundred dollars	100.00
Jeny, aged 39 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00
Milly, aged 29 years, valued at six hundred dollars	600.00
Kesiah, aged 10 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Lotty, aged 7 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Minerva, aged 3 years, valued at one hundred & fifty	150.00
Patience, aged 43 years, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
Ester Nat, aged 29 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Josh, aged 69 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Leah, aged 33 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Littleton, aged 21 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00
Adeline, aged 15 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Wiley, an infant, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
Ellen, aged 13 years, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
Margaret, aged 10 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Edward, aged 9 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$84.665.00</u>

Amount brought forward	\$84,665.00
Cordelia, aged 3 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Kitty, aged 6 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Delphine, an infant, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Phil, aged 75 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Esther, aged 25 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Rilla, aged 3 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Marshall, aged 9 years, valued at two hundred & fifty dollars	250.00
Ada, aged 23 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Len, aged 6 years, valued at two hundred & fifty dollars	250.00



Desery, aged 4 years, valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Treson, an infant, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Louisa, aged 19 years, valued at Six hundred & fifty dollars	650.00
Angy, aged 15 years, valued at Six hundred & fifty dollars	650.00
Edney, aged 49 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Lizzy, aged 23 years, valued at Six hundred & fifty dollars	650.00
Arie, aged 14 years, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
Little Phil, aged 26 years, valued at nine hundred & fifty dollars	950.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$91.515.00</u>

Patty, aged 32 years, valued at One thousand dollars	1000.00
Vina, aged 15 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Mose, aged 13 years, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
Adam, aged 11 years, valued at four hundred & fifty dol	450.00
Ester Sarah, aged 26 years, valued at One thousand dollars	1.000.00
Ester, aged 2 years, valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Old Hannah, aged 70 years, valued at Five dollars	5.00
Old Cato, aged 60 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Total Amount of real Estate	<u>\$95.720.00</u>

Personal Effects to wit:

One hundred & sixty head of cattle, valued at six hundred & thirty dollars	630.00
One hundred & twenty head of hogs, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Forty-nine head of sheep, valued at ninety-eight dollars	98.00
Four yoke of oxen valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Thirty head of common horses, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
One watch & seal, valued at One hundred & seventy-five dollars	175.00
Total amount of person Effects	<u>\$1.553.00</u>
Total amount of separate Estate	\$ 97.273.00

The following is the community, which existed between the said deceased, Bennett H. Barrow, and his wife Emily Joor, deceased:

## Real Estate:

One certain tract of land, known as the "Gibson" tract, containing six hundred & fifty acres, (and being under the same enclosure with the "Home place",) and being the same land purchased by Bennett H. Barrow of John A. Gibson, by act of date January 25, 1836, and described in said act, as bounded on the North by lands of said Barrow, on the East by the Little Bayou Sarah Creek, on the West by the Tunica Road, and South by the lands of C. C. S. Farrar. valued as appraised at the sum of Nine thousand dollars \$9.000.00

One other tract of land, known as the "Clark Place", containing eight hundred arpents, and being the same purchased by Bennett H. Barrow, of Mrs. Elizabeth O'Connor by act of date January 15<sup>th</sup> 1836, and described in said act as bounded on the North by Alexander Barrow, South by the heirs of Nicholas Kemplin, West by lands of H. Felowe & East by lands of the heirs of Gilbert Pipes -- valued and appraised at three thousand dollars \$3.000.00

One other tract, known as the "Swamp tract", containing one hundred & fifty acres, -- being the lower half of lots n<sup>o</sup> 2, 3, & 4, and being the same purchased by said Bennett H. Barrow & Alexander Barrow, at the Probate Sale of Pamela Flower, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1836. valued at three thousand dollars \$3.000.00

One other tract of land, known as the "Joor Place", containing thirteen hundred arpents, more or less, and being composed of three tracts, to wit: the "Garnhart" tract; the "Robinson" tract, & the tract originally owned by Charles Smith, and being the same property acquired by Bennett H. Barrow of Mrs. Emily Joor, by act of date February 27<sup>th</sup> 1843. valued at twelve thousand dollars \$12.000.00

Lucy, aged 37 years, valued at Six hundred	
dollars	600.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$27.600.00</u>

Jobe, aged 15 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Ann, aged 5 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Fisher, aged 13 years, valued at five hundred	
dollars	500.00
Lorenza, aged 10 years, valued at four hundred	
dollars	400.00
Charles, aged 44 years, valued at Six hundred	
dollars	600.00
Henry, aged 45 years, valued at Seven hundred	
dollars	700.00
Harriet, aged 33 years, valued at Seven hundred	
dollars	700.00
Sally, aged 16 years, valued at Seven hundred &	
fifty dollars	750.00
Adele, aged 13 years, valued at four hundred &	
fifty dollars	450.00

Kesandado, aged 8 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
George, aged 7 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Sina, aged 3 years valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Nancy, aged 28 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Dave Bartly, aged 6 years, valued at two hundred & fifty dollars	250.00
Harrison, aged 3 years, valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Peter, aged 1 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Martha, aged 19 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$34.900.00</u>

Winey, aged 25 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Josh, aged 2 years, valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Rosetta, an infant, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
Mary, aged 29 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Reuben, aged 8 years, valued at Three hundred dollars	300.00
Little Fanny, aged 21 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Oney, aged 43 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Frances, aged 24 years, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
Annica, aged 21 years, valued at Six hundred dollars	600.00
Noah, aged 3 years, valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Rosena, aged an infant, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
George, aged 24 years, valued at nine hundred & fifty dollars	950.00
Owens, aged 31 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00
Jim Butler, aged 43 years, valued at One thousand dollars	1.000.00
Sarah, aged 24 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Charlotte, aged 2 years, valued at One hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Evans, aged 7 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Amount carried forward	<u>\$43.050.00</u>

Oliver, aged 5 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Judy, aged 56 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Sam, aged 35 years, valued at eight hundred dollars	800.00
Mahala, aged 27 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Riley, aged 30 years, valued at One thousand dollars	1.000.00

Ephraim, aged 10 years, valued at four hundred & fifty dollars	450.00
Creacy, aged 46 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Ceely, aged 54 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Thornton, aged 35 years, valued at Eight hundred dollars	800.00
Jane, aged 17 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Priscilla, aged 14 years, valued at Three hundred & fifty dollars	350.00
Alpeat, aged 6 years, valued at two hundred & fifty dollars	250.00
Wade, aged 37 years, valued at nine hundred & fifty dollars	950.00
John, aged 27 years, valued at nine hundred & fifty dollars	950.00
Jim Tucker, aged 35 years, valued at Eight hundred & fifty dollars	850.00
Total amount of Real Estate	<u>\$51.500.00</u>

Personal Effects, to wit:

One lamp, valued at two dollars	\$ 2.00
Two armchairs, (?) at twenty dollars	20.00
One book case, at two dollars	2.00
One lounge, at five dollars	5.00
Two sofas, at ten dollars	10.00
One desk, at ten dollars	10.00
Eleven Bedsteads & bedding, valued at One hundred & seventy-five	
Seven washstands, at fifteen dollars	15.00
One side board, at fifteen dollars	15.00
Six mahogany tables at thirty dollars	30.00
One Piano, at One hundred dollars	100.00
Four pair andirons, shovels & tongs, at ten dollars	10.00
Twenty-nine silver spoons, at twenty-nine dollars	29.00
Eighteen tea spoons, at twelve dollars	12.00
One doz. dessert spoons, at twelve dollars	12.00
One set of preserve dishes, at four dollars	4.00
One lot of Books, at One hundred dollars	100.00
Total amount of personal effects	<u>\$551.00</u>

Total amount of community of first marriage	<u><u>\$52.051.00</u></u>
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The following is the community, which existed between the said deceased, and his present wife Nancy Joor, to wit:

A certain tract of land, known as the "Vidal" tract containing One hundred & seventy-four acres, and being the same property purchased by Bennett H. Barrow, at Sheriff's Sale, made at the suit of Mrs. Mary Ann Farrar & husband VS N. Norsworthy, -- bounded by lands of Bennett H. Barrow, known

as the "Joor Place", -- the heirs of Vidala Margaret Swift;  
-- valued & appraised at the sum of Seven hundred  
dollars

\$0.700.00

One other tract of land, known as the "Kimplin"  
tract, containing four hundred & one acres, -- and being the  
same acquired by Bennett H. Barrow of James L. Calcote, by  
act of sale January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1852, & particularly described in  
said act of Sale. -- valued & appraised at One thousand  
dollars

\$1.000.00

Amount carried forward

\$1.700.00

Augustus, aged 44 years, valued at fifteen  
hundred dollars

1.500.00

Isaac, aged 23 years, valued at One thousand  
dollars

1.000.00

Total amount of Real Estate

\$4.200.00

Personal effects, To wit:

One bureau, valued at seventy dollars	70.00
One armoir, valued at One hundred & fifteen dollars	115.00
One marble wash stand, valued at twelve dollars	12.00
One bureau, valued at fifteen dollars	15.00
Three armoirs, at twenty-five dollars	25.00
One doz. mahogany chairs, at thirty-three dollars	33.00
Five rocking chairs, at ten dollars	10.00
Four arm chairs, at twenty dollars	20.00
One green case, at fifteen dollars	15.00
Two arm chairs, at Sixteen dollars	16.00
Two work tables, at thirty-six dollars	36.00
Nine small chairs, at Six 50/100 dollars	6.50
One book case, at twenty-five dollars	25.00
One mahogany toilet stand at Seven dollars	7.00
Three doz. cane bottom chairs, at eighteen dollars	18.00
One tapestry carpet at One hundred & thirty dollars	130.00
Two carpets, at one hundred and twelve dollars	112.00
One rug, at Sixteen dollars	16.00
One lamp, at nine dollars	9.00
One china set, at two hundred dollars	200.00
One doz. table knives, at twelve dollars	12.00
One doz. dessert knives, at ten dollars	10.00
One dozen cut tumblers, at four dollars	4.00
Half doz. salt stands, at One 75/100 dollars	1.75
One ewer & basin, at one 50/100 dollars	1.50
Seven bowles & pitchers, at ten dollars	10.00
Three pair andirons, shovels & tongs--at ten dollars	10.00

Amount carried forward.....\$937.75

One doz. champagne glasses, at ten dollars	10.00
Forty-four good mules, at four thousand four hundred dollars	4.400.00

One pair carriage horses, valued at five hundred dollars	500.00
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One saddle horse, at one hundred dollars	100.00
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Seven horses, at one hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
One carriage & harness, at five hundred dollars	500.00
One buggy & harness, at One hundred dollars	100.00
Eleven cane wagons, at fifty dollars	50.00
Thirty ploughs, at seventy-five dollars	75.00
Sixty-two hoes, at ten dollars	10.00
Seventy-seven cane hoes, at fifteen dollars	15.00
Forty-four axes, at ten dollars	10.00
Two sugar kettles, at one hundred & fifty dollars	150.00
Four hogsheads of sugar, at two hundred dollars	200.00
Forty empty hogsheads, at fifty dollars	50.00
One lot cistern sugar, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Sugar scales, at fifty dollars	50.00

One certain promissory note of Charles Berg, of date May 21<sup>st</sup> 1852, payable December 1<sup>st</sup> 1852, to the order of B. Cooley for \$220., valued at the sum of two hundred & twenty dollars. 220.00

The following notes & drafts found among the papers of the deceased and not appraised, have been placed in a bundle marked "A". to wit: --

Two notes drawn by N. Barrow of date April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1850, payable two years from date to the order of Bennett H. Barrow, at the bank of Louisiana, and by him endorsed; -- One for \$1.208.18/100, and one for \$1.061.72/100 both bearing eight per cent interest after due until paid

Amount carried forward

\$7.927.75

Two notes of N. Barrow & Bennett H. Barrow, of date June, 1850, each for the sum of \$1.197.58/100 payable to the order of Benj. L. Joor, with eight per cent interest from January 1<sup>st</sup> 1847, until paid.

Draft of Mrs. N. Barrow of date Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 1850, on A Miltenberger & Co at twelve months for \$4.485.15/100, endorsed by B. H. Barrow.

Sight draft of Brewer & Collins on B. H. Barrow, of date Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 1852, for \$350. their fee for settling the succession of W<sup>m</sup> Haile decd.

Also one bundle of vouchers, in favor of Bennett H. Barrow & against Emily Haile, minor, Bundle marked "B".

Total amount of personal effects \$7.927.75

Total amount of community of second marriage \$12.127.75

The following are the Slaves that belonged to the separate Estate of Mr<sup>s</sup> Emily Barrow, deceased, to wit: --

Mary, aged 45 years, valued at four hundred dollars	\$ 400.00
Jiney, aged 28 years, valued at Seven hundred and fifty dollars	750.00
Harry, aged 25 years, valued at nine hundred & fifty dollars	950.00
Prince, aged 23 years, valued at eight hundred dollars	800.00

Bella, aged 21 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Elsie, aged 15 years, valued at seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Abram, aged 12 years, valued at four hundred & fifty dollars	450.00
Marcus, aged 2 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
Total valuation of Mr <sup>s</sup> E. Barrow's Estate	<u>\$4.950.00</u>

The following are the Slaves that belong to the Separate Estate of Mr<sup>s</sup> Nancy Barrow, deceased; --

Henry, aged 40 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00
Annie, aged 17 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
William, age 15 years, valued at Eight hundred dollars	800.00
Sidney, aged 10 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Isaac, aged 30 years, valued at Seven hundred dollars	700.00
Terry, aged 25 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00
Winny, aged 24 years, valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Hillary, aged 5 years, valued at two hundred & fifty dollars	250.00
Elmira, aged 1 years, valued at One hundred dollars	100.00
July, aged 25 years. valued at Seven hundred & fifty dollars	750.00
Ellen, aged 9 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Gustus, aged 5 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
Andrew Jack, an infant, valued at fifty dollars	50.00
Reuben, aged 25 years, valued at eight hundred & fifty dollars	850.00
Lorenzo Dow, aged 32 years, valued at fifteen hundred dollars	1.500.00
Harriet, aged 40 years, valued at three hundred dollars	300.00
Sydna, aged 40 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00
Lucinda, aged 40 years, valued at four hundred dollars	400.00
Jane, aged 24 years, valued at nine hundred dollars	900.00
Henry, aged 6 years, valued at two hundred & fifty dollars	250.00
Thomas, aged 3 years, valued at two hundred dollars	200.00
(blank) one hundred dollars	100.00
Maria, aged 14 years, valued at Eight hundred dollars	800.00
Total valuation of Separate Estate of Mr <sup>s</sup> N. Barrow	<u>\$13.150.00</u>

## Recapitulation:-

The total valuation of the separate Estate of Bennett H. Barrow, deceased, makes the sum of Ninety-seven thousand two hundred & seventy-three dollars \$97.273.00

The total valuation of the Community, which existed between his first wife Emily Joor, deceased, makes the sum of Fifty-two thousand & fifty-one dollars \$52.051.00

The total valuation of the Community, which existed between the deceased and his surviving wife Nancy Joor, -- makes the sum of Seven thousand nine hundred twenty-seven 75/100 dollars \$ 7.927.00

Total valuation of all property.....\$157.251.75

It is agreed by & between the parties at interest in this inventory that the signing of the same by them, shall not preclude any one of said parties from shewing the deceased, or that property inventoried as his separate Estate belongs to the community of their marriage, or to show & correct any error of fact in the inventoring of this succession -----There being no other property shewn to belong to this succession, this inventory and appraisement now closed in the presence of John Hunter Collins & Robert C. Wederstrandt, the said witnesses, who sign as such after the signing of said experts, and the said named parties at interest, who attended, -- all signing with me, the said Recorder, on the day and year first above written. -----

Witnesses: --

Experts: --

Robt. C. Wederstrandt  
J. Hunter Collins

Robt. I. Barrow  
Robt. H. Barrow

-----Bennett I. Barrow, Under Tutor

-----W<sup>m</sup> Ruffin Barrow, Special Tutor.

-----B. Haralson, Recorder. -----James Barrow. ----

-----Filed 17. June 1854. Charles B. Collins, Clerk.

-----Recorded Oct. 1855.-----



APPENDIX IIIRULES OF HIGHLAND PLANTATION \*

No negro shall leave the place at any time without my permission, or in my absence that of the Driver the driver in that case being responsible, for the cause of such absence. which ought never to be omitted to be enquired into -

The Driver should never leave the plantation, unless on business of the plantation -

No negro shall be allowed to marry out of the plantation.

No negro shall be allowed to sell anything without my express permission I have ever maintained the doctrine that my negroes have not time Whatever, that they are always liable to my call without questioning for a moment the propriety, of it, I adhere to this on the grounds of expediency and right. the very security of the plantation requires that a general and uniform control over the people of it should be exercised. Who are to protect the plantation from the intrusions of ill designed persons When every body is a broad? Who can tell the moment When a plantation might be threatened with destruction from Fire - could the flames be arrested if the negroes are scattered throughout the neighborhood, seeking their amusement. Are these not duties of great importance, and in which every negro himself is deeply interested to render this part of the rule justly applicable, however, it would be necessary that such a settled arrangement should exist on the plantation as to make it unnecessary for a negro to leave it - or to have a good plea for doing so - You must, therefore make him as comfortable at Home as possible, affording him what is essentially necessary for his happiness - you must provide for him Your self and by that means create in him a habit of perfect dependence on you - Allow it once to be understood by a negro that he is to provide for himself, and you that moment give him an undeniable claim on you for a portion of his time to make this provision, and should you from necessity, or any other cause, encroach

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\* The "Rules" were copied in the Diary on May 1, 1838

upon his time - disappointment and discontent are seriously felt - if I employ a labourer to perform a certain quantum of work per day and I agree to pay him a certain amount for the performance of said work When he has accomplished it I of course have no further claim on him for his time or services - but how different is it with a slave - Who can calculate the exact profit or expence of a slave one year with another, if I furnish my negro with evry necessary of life, without the least care on his part - if I support him in sickness, however long it may be, and pay all his expenses, though he does nothing - if I maintain him in his old age, when he is incapable of rendering either himself or myself any service, am I not entitled to an exclusive right to his time good feelings, and a sense of propriety would all ways prevent unnecessary employment on the Sabbath, and policy would check any exaction of excessive labor in common - Whatever other privileges I allow the Driver, he is not suffered to send any negro off the plantation, unless he sends him to me or some extraordinary circumstances arises that could make it proper that a message should be sent to a neighbour for as his transactions are confine solely to the plantation there rarely could exist a necessity to communicate with me, if he sends him for his own purpose, he is answerable for his absence as the negro would be, did he go away without any permission at all - I never give a negro a Pass to go from Home without he first states particularly where he wishes to go, and assigns a cause for his desiring to be absent. if he offers a good reason, I never refuse, but otherwise, I never grant him a Pass, and feel satisfied that no practice is more prejudicial to the community, and to the negroes themselves, than that of giving them general Pass'es - to go Where they please I am so opposed to this plan that I never permit any negro to remain on my plantation, whose Pass does not authorize him expressly to come to it- Some think that after a negro has done his work it is an act of oppression to confine him to the plantation, when he might be strolling about the neighborhood for his amusement and recreation - this is certainly a mistaken humanity. Habit is evry thing - The negro who is accustomed to remain constantly at Home, is just as satisfied with the society on the plantation as that which he would find elsewhere, and the verry restrictions laid upon him being equally imposed on others, he does not feel them, for society is kept at Home for them - As the Driver is answerable for the good conduct of the negroes, and the proper application of their time he ought always to be present to attend, otherwise he could never with propriety be charged with neglect, in which case all responsibility would be at an End - No rule that I have stated is of me importance than that relating to negroes marrying out of the plantation. it seems to me, from What observations I have made it is utterly impossible to have any method, or regularity When the

men and women are permitted to take wives and husbands indiscriminately off the plantation; negroes are very much disposed to pursue a course of this kind, and without being able to assign any good reason, though the motive can be readily perceived, and is a strong one with them, but one that tends not in the least to the benefit of the Master, or their ultimate good. the inconveniences that at once strikes one as arising out of such a practice are these -

First - in allowing the men to marry out of the plantation, you give them an uncontrollable right to be frequently absent 2<sup>d</sup> Wherever their wives live, there they consider their homes, consequently they are indifferent to the interest of the plantation to which they actually belong -

3<sup>d</sup> - it creates a feeling of independence, from being, of right, out of the control of the masters for a time -

4<sup>th</sup> - They are repeatedly exposed to temptation from meeting and associating with negroes from different directions, and with various habits & vices -

5<sup>th</sup> - Where there are several women on a plantation, they may have husbands from different plantations belonging to different persons. These men possess different habits are accustomed to different treatment, and have different privileges, so your plantation every day becomes a rendezvous of a medley of characters. Negroes who have the privilege of a monthly Passes to go where they please, and at any hour that they say they have finished their work, to leave their Master's plant<sup>n</sup> come into yours about midday, When your negroes are at work, and the Driver engaged, they either take possession of houses their wives live - and go to sleep or stroll about in perfect idleness - feeling themselves accessible to every thing. What an example to those at work at the time - can any circumstance be more intrusive of good order and contentment

Sixthly - When a man and his wife belong to different persons, they are liable to be separated from each other, as well as their children, either by caprice of either of the parties, or When there is a sale of property - this keeps up an unsettled state of things, and gives rise to repeated new connections it might be asked how does this rule answer when there are several men on a plantation and few women - or vice versa, When there several women, & few men - For to adopt rules merely because they are good in themselves and not to pursue a plan which would make them applicable, would be fallacious - I prefer giving them money of Christ-mas to their making any thing, thereby creating an interest

with you and yours. &c. I furnish my negroes regularly with their full share of allowance weakly. 4 pound & 5 pound of meat to evry thing that goes in the field - 2 pound over 4 years 1½ between 15 months and 4 years old - Clear good meat - I give them cloths twice a year, two suits - one pair shoues for winter evry third year a blanket - "single negro - two." I supply them with tobacco if a negro is suffered to sell any thing he chooses without any inquiry being made, a spirit of trafficking at once is created. to carry this on, both means and time are necessary, neither of which is he of right possessed. A negro would not be content to sell only What he raises or makes or either corn (should he be permitted) or poultry, or the like, but he would sell a part of his allowance allso, and would be tempted to commit robberies to obtain things to sell. Besides, he would never go through his work carefully, particularly When other engagements more interesting and pleasing are constantly passing through his mind, but would be apt to slight his work That the general conduct of master has a verry considerable influence on the character and habits of his slave, will be readily admitted. When a master is uniform in his own habits & conduct, his slaves know his wishes, and What they are to expect if they act in opposition to, or conformity with them, therefore, the more order and contentment Exist.

A plantation might be considered as a piece of machinery, to operate successfully, all of its parts should be uniform and exact, and the impelling force regular and steady; and the master, if he pretended at all to attend to his buisness, should be their impelling force. if a master exhibits no extraordinary interest in the proceedings on his plantation, it is hardly to be expected that any other feelings but apathy, and perfect indifference could exist with his negroes, and it would be unreasonable for him, Who as the principle incitements, And is careless, to expect attention and exection from those, Who have no other interest than to avoid the displeasure of their master. in the different departments on the plantation as much destinction and separation are kept up as possible with a view to create responsibility - The Driver has a directed charge of every thing, but there are subordinate persons, who take the more immediate care of the different departments. For instance, I make one persons answerable for my stock. Horses cattle hogs &c. another the plantation utensials &c. one the sick - one the poultry. another providing for en taking care of the children whose parents are in the field &c. As good a plan as could be adopted, to establish security and good order on the plantation is that of constituting a watch at night, consisting of two or more men. they are answerable of all trespasses committed during their watch, unless they produce the offender. or give immediate alarm. When the protection of a plantation is left to the negroes generally, you at once percieve the truth of the maxim that what is evry one's buisness, is no one's buisness. but

when a regular watch is Established, Each in turn performs his tour of duty, so that the most careless is at times, made to be observant and watchful - the verry act of organizing a watch bespeaks a care and attention on the part of a master, Which, has the due influence on the negro -

Most of the above roles. "in fact with the exception of the last" I have adopted since 1833. And with success - get your negroes ounce disciplined and planting is a pleasure - A H - without it never have an Overseer - Every negro to come up Sunday after their allowance Clean & head well combed - it gives pride to every one, the fact of master feeling proud of them, When clean &c.

Never allow any man to talk to your negros, nothing more injurious,

Bennet H. Barrow

APPENDIX IVBENNET H. BARROW ACCOUNTS: 1838-1845 \*

## 1838

November 1	Paid my note due today to Wilson and Clark	\$3,230.00
October 15	10 Barrels Prime Pork	250.00
November 17	Paid during the races	50.00
25/28	My note due to Mr. L. and Thompson in New Orleans paid	4,191.58
December 23/25	Note to L. and Thompson - paid due them by cash \$10.00	5,357.34 10.00
November 20	Paid Silver Smith \$10.00	10.00
December 20	Spent and lost in New Orleans	800.00

## 1839-40

January 1	Jos. Bell	\$6,000.00
1	Bill in Canal Bank	1,118.00
	New Orleans	500.00
	New Orleans	300.00
1	Blacksmith	116.00
31	Dr. Baines	343.00
31	B. Marshall and Company	150.00
February 4	Canal Bank Bond	1,600.00
	Bagging and rope	1,100.00
March 1	In New Orleans	500.00
	In New Orleans	500.00
	Collins and Baldwin	285.00
	M. Barrow	235.00
	Wm. S. Barull	460.00
	McCombs	325.00
	Holmes	75.00

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\* In tabulated form at the end of the Diary.

April 13	Paid Peter for digging well, 45 feet	\$45.00
	Norman	115.00
	Church in Woodville	50.00
	Grocery in New Orleans	175.00
	Bond on Clark Place	654.00
	Taxes	279.00
	Simmons for ploughs	115.00
	Pardon	200.00
	Prichard - Peas	75.00
April	Cusharhs Druggist, Mr. Joor "Hail"	65.00
	Dr. Magour for medical services	69.18
July	Mrs. Mary Woodward	100.00
		<u>\$30,087.10</u>
October 15	Paid to Lennox and Wenn	
	Paid to Dr. Fawcett	
	Finley and Co. of New Orleans	
		\$3,299.86
		<u>1,886.71</u>
		\$6,186.57
	Pritchard, of New Orleans	78.00
	Munford Perks	136.08
	Saddle Horse	230.00
	Buggie	285.00
December 18	Note, Forgery of J. Desmont	200.00
	Account of W. N. Banell	259.94
	Negros	500.00
	Negros	200.00
January 6, 1840	To Canal Bank	612.83
16	James Magee and Co., Ploughs, saddles and horses	215.25
17		<u>\$8,860.42</u>
17	Paid to M. Barrow	903.13
	H. Baines	92.75
	Two small bills	20.00
February 4	Jno. Holmes, account	339.55
4	Canal Bank Bond	305.00
9	Dr. Walker	68.25
11	Buatt and Lentey	142.50
	W. A. Sheldon	39.26
	David Austin	205.53
	Jno. C. Norman	130.76
	In New Orleans	11,000.00
	In New Orleans	640.00
March 1	Dr. C. H. Stone's Medical Bill	170.00
	Endorsement for Morris Boyles	1,350.00
	B. Barrow, Blacksmith's bill	78.50
	I. H. Coulter, Carpenter	50.00
14	Jno. Holmes	43.00
14	K. Dunbar	31.64
14	Collins and Baldwin	395.88
14	Brockway, Gunsmith	6.00
	Meet	675.00

	McCrindle	\$35.00	
	Jno. Joor	145.00	
	Jno. Holmes	45.50	
April 23	H. E. Salu Account	53.94	
	Bottas History of the War and Washington	46.00	
	G. W. Pennington, Gin Repairs	112.00	
	Canal Bank	354.33	
May 4	G. B. Smyth	25.00	
	Jno. Holmes	27.00	
	Subscription to Spirit of the Times	10.00	
	G. W. Pritchard and Lagint	300.00	
	Jno. Holmes	44.00	
	Taxes	270.00	
	La. Bank	600.00	
	D. Barrow, Blacksmith	70.00	
	B. Casey	485.00	
July 1	P. Office and W. Paper	15.00	
	Finley and Company	3,275.02	
	Ben Pryer	100.00	
	McKean \$25. L. A. Godey \$20.	45.00	
	E. W. Thompson for Horse, &c.	86.00	
	Jno. Holmes	76.00	
	News papers	15.00	
	Grey Horse	100.00	
November 25	Meat in New Orleans		
		\$175.00	
		165.00	
		<u>\$340.00</u>	
			340.00
			<u>\$29,222.95</u>

1841

	Negros	720.00	
January 4	Dun Horse	112.50	
	Blankets	305.00	
	Meat	750.00	
	Groceries	521.25	
	Colins and Duma	109.00	
	Miss Cochrane	150.00	
	Miss Wilkins	41.00	
	Stoow and Company	37.00	
	Clothes for children	32.00	
	Clothes for self and A.	45.00	
	Expenses to New Orleans	100.00	
	G. B. Buckler	30.00	
	Books	12.00	
	Crockery	44.50	
	Holmes	355.00	
	Papers	100.00	
	M. Barrow	1,055.00	



	Collins and Baldwin	\$135.00
	Sheldon	112.00
	C. Bank	405.00
	La. Bank	425.00
March 4	Citizens Bank	1,920.00
	Austin and Company	93.00
	Cotton Seed	50.00
	J. A. Kelly Advertising	30.00
	Repairs to buggy	7.00
	Miss Mayhew	106.00
	Mollasses, 20 Barrels	176.00
	Mr. Fields for saddle Poney	100.00
	A. Ledoux and Company	1,700.00
	Bagging and rope	1,200.00
	Taxes	265.75
	Jno. C. Morris	
	Norman and Co., Blacksmiths	
	D. Barrow, work of Boy Henry	
	McCombs and Brady	24.00
	Jno. Holmes	100.00
	St. Boat	67.00
	Well Digger	51.00
	McCombs	36.00
	D. Turnbull	7,980.00
	Dr. Percey	20.00
	Dr. Walker	70.00
	Mr. Theur	80.00
	Carrolton Bank	70.00
	Henry Conner	50.00
	Taxes	265.75
	Bagging and rope, crop 1841, 2520 yards bagging and 35 coils rope, 30 lbs. twine	1,185.54
	Madam Cochran	153.00
March 9	T. B. Thorp	50.00
	Surty and Buatt	93.00
	Difference of Horses	25.00
	Two Guns	32.00
Crop, 1841		\$21,591.04
	New Orleans for negros	1,055.00
	New Orleans for self	21.50
		25.00
		28.50
		232.00
		50.25
		\$1,312.25
	Jno. C. Norman	177.00
	Jno. Holmes	1,000.00
	New Orleans, \$120, \$100.	220.00
February 20	Canal Bank	400.00
	La. Bank	550.00
	Dr. Walker	208.00
	Risley	13.25

George Joors Notes	\$3,030.00
T. B. Thorp	100.00
D. Barrow	102.50
Dr. Walker	133.00
	50.00
	<u>\$7,396.00</u>
Ledoux and Company	3,000.00
	<u>\$10,396.00</u>

## 1842

Jno. C. Morris	\$660.00
Ledoux and Company	6,500.00
La. Bank	600.00
C. Bank	1,700.00
Jno. Holmes	581.00
D. Austin	200.00
Hulburt	500.00
M. and D. Barrow	460.00
New Orleans, \$125, \$35, \$43, \$203.	203.00
New Orleans, \$1000 in La. B.	50.00
Lebret	200.00
Taxes \$282, \$309, \$591.	591.00
Richards and Montgomery	135.00
Madam Cochran	227.00
Magru and Kruass	133.00
Mullin and Company	237.50
Burligny and Guanchur	562.50
Colins and Dunas	125.00
Cordrine and Lecroix	33.00
New Orleans	100.00
Dr. Walker	323.00
Endorsement to F. Routh in October,	
May \$9,635.00	350.00
Expenses	150.00
Expenses	200.00
Cotten seed	97.00
Groceries	35.00
Dentist	115.00
In New Orleans	1,000.00
	<u>\$15,602.00</u>
In New Orleans, \$1340.	\$15,602.00
	1,364.00
	<u>\$16,966.00</u>
Paid out of Crop, 1842	\$16,966.00

1843-44

	Paid to Dennis Burnes	\$140.00
	F. V. Oldershausen shoes by draft	100.00
October 26	Louisiana Bank Interest on Bond	
	\$1,500 by draft	135.00
	Draft through Canal Bank	100.00
November 15	Charles A. Jacobs	5,336.12
21	20 Bushels wheat	18.33
	5 Barrels Mess Pork, P. Lebret	55.00
December 15	Canal Bank, Interest on \$2,500	217.50
15	Note to Estate of Greys, two mules	183.00
16	H. B. Hurlburt, Teaching, "draft"	100.00
January 25	C. A. Jacobs, interest on \$5,853	585.00
31	H. B. Hurlburt	387.00
24	Draft on La. Bank, interest on \$900	96.00
27	Richards and Montgomery	179.37
27	Magru Kruass and Company	132.00
27	McKean and Casey	138.00
27	New Orleans, Watch &c.	200.00
29	Blacksmith in Town	4.00
31	Dr. Dashiell and Percey	32.00
27	Sexton and Seymour	35.41
27	Ruffin B.	56.00
27	Dr. J. W. King \$25, \$8.50	33.50
27	A. Ledoux and Company, New Orleans	415.00
February 3	M. and D. Barrow	40.36
	J. C. Morris	190.00
	Taxes	313.46
	Note to I. Parket, endorsement for	
	A. G. Barrow	713.50
	P. Levret	58.80
	D. Austin	46.41
	Wm. McCombs	21.16
6	James Flower Jr. estate "Purchased yesterday"	43.00
10	Dr. King for two year's attendance	179.50
	Shaw and Risley, New Orleans	70.00
15	Miles Kelly for horse and mule	300.00
	C. A. Jacobs, interst and part of	
	\$6,7502	1,750.00
	J. A. Kelly, Editor, &c.	10.00
	Woodville Republican	19.25
	Charleston Mercury	5.00
March 20	Allison and Homes, account	400.00
	Dr. Baines, the most rascally bill ever paid	144.88
	C. Johnson, Life of H. Clay	5.00
	W. McCombs and Bell	12.62
April 18	To Canal Bank	167.00
	Mr. Shandervaw, for starting mill, &c.	20.00
		<u>\$13,189.17</u>

	R. Mumford	\$2,200.00
	C. Jacobs	5,125.00
	Canal Bank	3,750.00
	Canal Bank	216.00
	Carrolton Bank	248.00
	Louisiana Bank	176.00
	Louisiana Bank	360.00
	Ledoux and Company, acceptance	3,587.00
	J. Flowers, E. McDermott and my own	1,500.00
	Carrollton Bank	270.00
	H. B. Hurlburt, my teacher	500.00
	H. W. Benjamin	300.00
	John Holmes and Allison	885.35
	Jno. C. Morris acct.	265.50
	Gin stands	360.00
	Colins and Duma	252.00
	Richards and Montgomery	208.47
	Maggee Knear and Co.	79.95
	F. V. Oldershausen	247.35
	New Orleans Grocers	300.00
	J. Buatt	21.00
	P. Lebret	50.00
	Blacksmith	7.00
	Dr. King \$302 and Dr. Hurford \$7	309.00
	Saddle Horse	65.00
	Collin and Douglass for mules	1,205.00
	Endorsement for Routh	970.00
	Taxes	335.20
	Shaw and Risley, New Orleans	85.50
	Post Office	20.00
	Mr. Herrin for Blacksmithing	99.00
March 6	R. Chatham, Blacksmith	12.00
	In town, M. B. and R. C. Wederstrand and Company	87.00
	T. C. McCrindle, Molasses and Pork	57.00
	T. C. McCrindle, Molasses and Pork	122.00
April	To Hutchison and Henry for Horse	100.00
		<u>\$24,355.32</u>

## 1845

December	Wm. McCombs	\$175.00
	Jno. C. Moris	36.00
	T. McCrindle	150.00
	Canal Bank, endorsed for Ratliff	1,200.00
	Canal Bank, draft	550.00
	H. B. Hurlburt \$20, \$10, \$93	123.00
	Town	150.00
	Jno. Holmes	90.00
	Jno. Holmes	35.00

H. B. Hurlburt, in all paid him	
\$617.75	\$495.00
Canal Bank	216.00
Louisiana Bank, New Orleans, \$360,	
\$1,860	2,220.00
Buggy Horse and P. Lebret, \$95	
and \$43	138.00
T. McCrindle	100.00
Dr. J. W. King, medical bill	400.00
Bach and Myers for negros	60.00
Magru Kruass of New Orleans	25.00
	<u>\$5,593.00</u>
Taxes	
Wm. Ball	44.00
Michael	25.00

APPENDIX VTABLE OF COTTON PICKINGS \*

Nov. 3, 1838

	Morning	Evening	Total
Atean	323	296	622
Ben	265	287	552
L. Cato	159	148	307
Dave Bartley	287	284	590
Demps	222	223	445
G. Jerry	169	135	304
F. Jerry	183	163	346
Kish	245	255	500
Lewis	215	200	415
Davis Nat.	223	220	443
Randal	249	239	488
Ralph	165	185	350
Sam	200	155	355
L. Tom	228	185	413
B. Tom	175	175	350
Wade	200	177	377
Wash	185	195	380
L. Fill	140	130	270
John	165	115	280
B. Nat	134	105	239
E. Nat	120	111	331
Owen	185	117	302
Levi	227	273	500
Thornton	120	105	225
Betsy	235	198	433
Bet	125	105	230
Creasy	185	145	330
Darcas	208	165	373
Edny	168	154	322
Fanney, suckler	178	125	303
Hetty	195	185	392

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\* In tabulated form at the end of the Diary.

	Morning	Evening	Total
L. Hannah	200	220	420
Julia	157	135	292
Luce	173	165	338
Margaret, suckler	183	126	309
Mary, suckler	175	120	295
Oney	190	173	363
Patience	175	166	341
Sidney, suckler	180	122	302
Grace	156	120	276
Milley	150	123	273
Lize	204	195	435

Morning cotton less trash in it than any picked this year. Evening cotton usual. 15311 lbs, 42 pickers, 364½ lbs. each.

Sept. 10, 1842

Atean	520	Betsy	405
Ben	470	Bet	225
L. Cato	255	Candis	300
D. Bartley	485	Creasy	300
L. Dave	375	Darcas	355
Demps	395	Edny	300
Dennis	405	Fanney	365
Frank	290	Grace, not in a situ-	
Henry	310	ation to pick.	255
Israel	330	L. Hannah, suckler	400
Jack	440	Hetty	335
Jerry	375	Julia	260
G. Jerry	280	Jensey	290
E. Jim	310	Leah, suckler	310
Jim	315	'Lize	425
O. Leah, sick,		Luce, suckler	300
rising &c.	345	Mary, same as	
Levi	385	Grace.	255
Lewis	315	Margaret, unwell.	360
D. Nat	485	Maria, unwell,	
Randal	390	scoffula.	250
Ralph	365	Milley	420
Sam	325	Mahaley	270
B. Tom, sore eyes.	260	Nancey	270
L. Tom	365	Sidney, suckler	380
Wade	395	Easter	200
Wash	315	Sarah	230
Ellick	290	Winney	200
L. Fill	285	Adah, 1st. yr.	
John	380	picking	125
B. Nat	290	Bella, 1st. yr.	
E. Nat	250	picking	120

Owens	400	Fanney L., 1st. yr.	
Thornton	270	picking	145
Willie	315	Francis, 1st. yr.	
Harry	185	picking	125
L. Jim, 1st. yr.		Lizzey, 1st. yr.	
picking	145	picking	140
Prince, 1st. yr.		Rachel	190
picking	145	Jenny O.	230

Cotton as dry as could be, and uncommon hot day. Every day cotton. 21,130 lbs. Average 305 lbs. 69 pickers, eleven children. Considering the day and number of young pickers, best day's work they ever done, a great many unable to pick as much as they would have done, weak, &c. from effects of scarlet fever and measles.



APPENDIX VITABLE OF COTTON SALES: 1839-1845 \*

<u>1839</u>		
40 Bales	16523 lb. @ 12¢	\$1849.37
40 Bales	16195 lb. @ 13¢	1978.20
40 Bales	16365 lb. @ 12½¢	1886.40
		<u>\$5713.97</u>
72 Bales	30437 lb. @ 11¾¢	3353.86
40 Bales	16121 lb. @ 10¢	1499.74
December 17, 1839		<u>\$10567.57</u>
232 Bales	sold - gain 6 Bales 237 lb.	
<u>6</u>		
238. 237 lb.		
<u>4</u>		
14 Bales	6245 lb @ 11¢	644.65
54 Bales	23153 lb @ 10 ¾¢	2330.59
<u>6.25 lb.</u>		
314.25 lb.	314 Bales sold of 400 lb.	<u>\$13542.81</u>
38 Bales	15533 lb. @ 11¢	1598.48
40 Bales	16502 lb. @ 11¢	1645.54
378 Bales sold in No		<u>\$16786.83</u>
<u>20</u>		
398 Bales sold of 400 lb.		
64 Bales sold of 400 lb. 27604 lb. @ 7		1775.12
5 gained		
24 Bales cotton 10842 lb. @ 6¢		593.81
<u>2.42</u>		
493.42 of 400 lb.		<u>\$19145.76</u>
<u>6</u>		
12 Bales cotton 5344 lb. @ 6¢		
<u>5</u>		
14 Bales cotton 6308 lb. @ 5¢		576.66
530 Bales of 400 lb.		<u>\$19722.42</u>

\* In tabulated form at the end of the Diary. The editor has made no attempt to audit these figures.

1840

54 Bales	22602 lb. @ 8 3/4¢ Amt.	\$1848.14
36 Bales	15677 lb. @ 9 1/16¢	
36 Bales	15322 lb. @ 9¢	2621.62
9		
96 Bales	40846 lb. @ 9 1/8¢	3478.59
6.46 lb.		
<u>277</u>		<u>\$7948.35</u>

48 Bales	20053 lb. @ 8 3/4¢	\$1638.10
36 Bales	14425 lb. @ 9¢	1212.51
2.94 lb. gain		
<u>363.94 lb.</u>		<u>\$10798.96</u>
		3653.20
		<u>\$14452.16</u>

314		
97 Bales Cotton	39974 lb. @ 9 3/4¢	3653.20
<u>463.78 lb.</u>		
10 Bales Cotton	4198 lb. @ 10¢	392.97
10 Bales Cotton	4009 lb. @ 9 3/8¢	351.57
		<u>\$18849.90</u>

6 Bales Cotton	2612 lb. @ 11¢	15196.70
8 Bales Cotton	3319 lb. @ 10¢	580.70
		<u>\$15777.40</u>

477 Bales in No.	
<u>21 in gain</u>	
498	
<u>10</u>	
508	

Crop of 1840 amounted to	<u>\$17565.16</u>
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1841

53 Bales weighing	22923 lb. @ 10¢	\$2154.64
54 Bales weighing	23912 lb. @ 43 at 10¢ 11 @ 8 1/2	2173.74
86 Bales weighing	37015 lb. @ 9 3/8¢	
6 Bales weighing	2675 lb. @ 9 1/4¢	3486.46
60 Bales weighing	25936 lb. @ 9 1/4¢	2249.12
53 Bales weighing	23236 lb. @ 9 1/4¢	2015.96
32 Bales weighing	13975 lb. @ 9¢	1178.43
8 Bales weighing	3540 lb. @ 9 1/2¢	315.82
16 Bales weighing	6766 lb. @ 9¢	569.88
		<u>\$14160.05</u>

	4.102	
	5.312	
	7. 90	
	<u>17.104</u> lb.	
	4	
	5	
	3	
	1	
	<u>1</u>	
	31 B. 356 lb. in all.	
399,356 lbs		
22 Bales	10018 lb. @ $7\frac{1}{8}\phi$	\$700.22
8 Bales	3504 lb. @ $7\frac{3}{8}\phi$	240.27
	3B.180	
	<u>4B.218</u>	
	35B.398	
53 Bales		1627.73
7 Bales		201.11
3 Bales		85.39
<u>504 Bales, 1841</u>		<u>\$17014.77</u>

1842

12 Bales weighing	5370 lb. @ $7\frac{3}{4}\phi$	\$387.37
8 Bales weighing	3518 lb. @ $9\frac{1}{4}\phi$	304.78
86 Bales weighing	37362 lb. @ $7\frac{1}{8}\phi$	2601.85
56 Bales weighing	24591 lb. @ $6\frac{1}{8}\phi$	1334.85
<u>46 Bales weighing</u>	<u>20688 lb. @ <math>6\frac{3}{8}\phi</math></u>	<u>1216.97</u>
208		\$5895.82
	1.170 lb.	
	0.318 lb.	
	<u>7.162</u> lb.	
	9.250 lb.	
	5.120 lb.	
	4	
	<u>9.173</u> lb.	
	28.43	
<u>105</u>	45773 lb. @ $5\frac{1}{4}\phi$	2188.20
<u>341 Bales 43 lb.</u>		<u>\$8084.02</u>
46 Bales	20688 lb. @ $6\frac{3}{8}\phi$	1216.97
16 Bales	7185 lb. @ $5\frac{1}{4}\phi$	344.21
8 Bales	3401 lb. @ $5\frac{5}{8}\phi$	174.72
<u>411</u>		<u>\$9819.92</u>

1843

8 Bales weighing	3383 lb. @ 9¢	\$285.14
41 Bales weighing	17831 lb. @ 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢	1422.28
44 Bales weighing	19381 lb. 20 @ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ - 24 @ 7 3/4¢	1389.47
47 Bales weighing	20451 lb. @ 7 3/8¢	1389.47
7 Bales Nov. 14.	1843. 3120 lb. @ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢	1633.02
48 Bales Nov. 21.	1843. 21543 lb. @ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢	1465.07
7 Bales Nov. 25	3062 lb. @ 8¢	259.56
21 Bales Dec. 23	9635 lb. @ 9¢	819.62

.183 lb.  
 3.231 lb.  
 4.181 lb.  
 4. 51 lb.  
 4.321 lb.  
 5.343 lb.  
 5.262 lb.  
4. 35 lb.  
 7. lb.

\$7274.16

One hundred & twenty five burnt  
 up, loss of \$5000.00

1844

8 Bales weighing	3243 lb. @ 5 5/8¢	\$167.99
62 Bales weighing	25323 lb. @ 6¢	1404.37
26 Bales weighing	11253 lb. @ 5 3/4¢	598.00
10 Bales weighing	4234 lb. @ 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢, Nov. 25	204.21
50 Bales weighing	21033 lb. @ 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢, Dec. 7	1012.09
56 Bales weighing	25488 lb. @ 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢	1234.14
30 Bales weighing	14682 lb. @ 4 5/8¢, Dec. 31	624.47
42 Bales weighing	19782 lb. @ 4 5/8¢, Dec. 26	
42 Bales	18128 @ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, Jan. 10, '45	699.45
14 Bales	6345 lb. @ 5¢, Dec. 26, '44	1131.37
<u>340</u>		
49 Bales	22744 lb. @ 5¢, Feb. 21, '45	1047.23
34 Bales	14146 lb. @ 5¢, Feb. 25, '45	647.33
<u>423</u>		\$8770.65

.43 lb.  
 1.123 lb.  
 2.53 lb.  
 2.234 lb.  
 2.33 lb.  
 6.288 lb.  
 7.282 lb.  
 7.327 lb.  
 3.128 lb.  
 6.344 lb.  
 2.146 lb.

1845.

August 18		
14 Bales weighing	@ 9 1/8¢	507.95
September		
12 Bales weighing 5628 lb.	@ 7¢	
15 Bales weighing 6390 lb.	@ 7 1/4¢	
31 Bales weighing 13119 lb.	@ 8¢	1784.01
October		
36 Bales weighing 16005 lb.	@ 8¢	1200.80
5 Bales weighing 1961 lb.	@ 8¢	146.58
November		
59.11 Bales weighing 23534 lb.	@ 7 1/8¢	1559.24
7 Bales weighing 2957 lb.	@ 7¢	193.51
28.4 Bales weighing 11655 lb.	@ 8 1/8¢	
35.4 Bales weighing 14276 lb.	@ 8¢	1954.57
32.4 Bales weighing 12898 lb.	@ 7 1/8¢	858.16
20 Bales weighing 8504 lb.	@ 7 1/8¢	1623.94
38 Bales weighing 5614 lb.	@ 7¢	
14 Bales weighing 5667 lb.	@ 6 5/8¢	347.74
<u>346</u>		<u>\$10146.50</u>
13 bales gained		
359 Bales in all		

APPENDIX VII

## SLAVE BIRTHS: 1835 - 1846 \*

L. Lucy's	child	Louisa	October 5, 1835	
Mary's	child		September 15, 1835	
Margaret's	child	Orange	February 1, 1836	
Cealy's	child	Jane Bello	April 22, 1836	
Candis'	child	Isaac	August 1, 1836	
Sidney's	child		July 10, 1836	Born dead
Maria's	child	Kitty	July 10, 1836	
Harriet's	child	Ned	November 20, 1836	
Patty's	child		December 19, 1836	Died
Leah's	child	Adeline	March 6, 1837	
Margaret's	child	Edmond	September 21, 1837	Died
Mary's	child	Rose	January 9, 1838	
Sidney's	child	Robert	February 21, 1838	
Edny's	child		June 7, 1838	
Fanny's	child		July 4, 1838	Died
Jane's	child		September 29, 1838	Died
Candis'	child		October 12, 1838	Died
Maria's	child	Horrace	November 30, 1838	
Harriet's	child	Sally	December 2, 1838	
Leah's	child		December 10, 1838	Died
L. Lucey's	child	Anzy	March , 1839	
Luce's	child	Jobe	June 10, 1839	
Patty's	child	Vina	July 20, 1839	
L. Hannah's	child	Mathilda	July 20, 1839	
Mary's	child	Elsa	July 23, 1839	
Luckey's	twins		July 26, 1839	Dwindled away
Edny's	twins	Ary	January 11, 1840	One living
Candis'	child	Monita	February 13, 1840	
Hetty's	child	Robert	May 13, 1840	
Leah's	child		April 9, 1840	Died
Sidney's	child		June 2, 1840	Died
Darcas'	child	William	June 16, 1840	
Jane's		Priscilla	November 20, 1840	
Fanny's	child	Judy	March 3, 1841	
Maria's	child	Josiphine	March 7, 1841	Died
L. Hannah's	child	Richard	June 17, 1841	

\* Assembled from the Diary.

Harriet's	child	Addella	June 21, 1841	
Patty's	child	Moses	June 30, 1841	
Leah's	child	Ellen	July 7, 1841	
Sidney's	child	Lucinda	September 17, 1841	
Lavenia's	child	Annis	November 14, 1841	
Luce's	child	Fisher	November 23, 1841	
Mary's	child	Abraham	December 21, 1842	
Patty's	child	Adam	February 28, 1843	
Candis'	child	Atean	April 14, 1843	Dead
Darcas'	child	Kitty	April 27, 1843	
L. Hannah's	child	Cornelius	May 9, 1843	
Maria's	child	Charlott	July 28, 1843	
Leah's	child	Margaret	August 17, 1843	
Sidney's	child	Ephraiam	October 24, 1843	Dead
Jane's	child		November 8, 1843	Died
Harriet's	child	Hanover	November 21, 1843	
Margaret's	child	Minta	February 28, 1844	
Luce's	child	Lorenza	May 23, 1844	
Milley's	child	Cazia	June 7, 1844	
Mahaley's	child	Ephraim	July 7, 1844	
Fanney's	child	Levat	November 27, 1844	
Pattey's	child	Len	December 14, 1844	
L. Hannah's	child	Daniel	January 31, 1845	
Darcas'	child	Grace	February 13, 1845	
Hetty's	child		February 20, 1845	Died
Grace's	child		May 1, 1845	
Candis'	child		May 23, 1845	
Sidney's	child		June 10, 1845	
Sarah's	child		September 10, 1845	
Leah's	child		November 29, 1845	
Harriet's	child		January 20, 1846	
Milley's	child		January 3, 1846	
Lavenia			1846	

APPENDIX VIIISLAVE DEATHS: 1831 - 1845 \*

Old Pat	1831	80 years	
Old Jack	1834	85 years	
Old Rheuben	1836	60 years	
Old Betty	1836	65 years	Found dead. Cripple 5 years.
Billy	1836		Died of worms 6 hours after taken.
Nelly	1837	26 years	Died 24 hours after I saw her. Received some injury. In the family way.
Easter	1837	50 years	Died of Pleurisy, drinking, &c. Relapse, died very suddenly. Great loss.
William	1837	3 years	Died suddenly. Worms.
Hanover	1837	6 years	Died of worms, suddenly.
George	1837	30 years	Drowned in attempting to cross L. Creek in <sup>his</sup> field at dark, and in a verry heavy storm, on a mule. Irreparable loss in every respect. September 6.
Edny's child	1838	one week old	Died of Lock jaw, June 13.
Candis' child	1838	one week old	Died of Lock jaw, October 19.

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\* Assembled from the Diary.



Harriet's Ned	1838		Died suddenly, December 1.
Fanny's child		4 months old	Died from carelessness.
Jane's child			Died from disease of mother.
Leah's child	1838	one week old	December 17.
Sidney's child	1839	2 years old	Sick for 10 or 12 days. Recovering. Caught vio- lent cold and sore throat. Strangled, died in 24 hours after relapse, September 19
Marcus	1840	6 years old	Taken with spasms at one o'clock. Died at eleven. Went to bed well, never spoke from the time he was taken. Spring.
Kitty	1840	2 years old	Never spoke after I saw it this morning. Can't account for either of the above two deaths. Uncommon fat child, June 27.
Sidney's infant	1840		October 20.
Old Lucy	1841	49 years old	Fill's wife. Died this afternoon. In a manner dead for the last nine months. Dropsy of the chest. September 26.
Monita	1842		Found her as I returned from the gin house. Sick and then dying. Lived 8 hours. Most robust child on the place, can't ac- count for it. August 21.
Horrace	1842		Had dropsy for 12 months. Took the scarlet fever. August 28, 1842.
Josephina			

Robert	1843	3 years old	Worms and inflammation. Sick 24 hours after I saw him. Sick 24 hours before a word was said about it. Finest boy I ever saw. July 25.
Bartley	1844		Died of the Epidemic here. At this time mortification, &c. April 10.
Essex	1844		Killed by falling of cotton house shed, "hard wind", 3rd of August. Found under the shed.
Atean	1844	16 months old	Sick 24 hours. September 4.
Maria	1844		Sick for some time. Relapse, carelessness. Whiskey killed her. December 28.
Sidney's child	1844	7 months old	Died from a fall and neglect, May 30.
Jane's child		3 weeks old	Died of Lock jaw and neglect, delay, &c.
Hetty's child		2 weeks old	Died of Lock jaw and neglect, delay, &c.
Frank	1845		Drowned, November.

APPENDIX IXPUNISHMENTS: 1840-1841 <sup>1</sup>

Darcas		Left the field today without the consent of the Driver. Pretending to be sick.
Anica		Filthiness, in the milk and butter. Her and Darcas alike. December 10, 1840 improved very much.
Peter		Told me several lies Christmas. Drunkard, etc.
Candis		Saw Dennis while runaway.
Jenney		Saw Dennis while runaway.
Isreal		Saw Dennis while runaway.
G. Jerry		Saw Dennis while runaway.
Patience		Not trashing cotton well. Leaving yellow locks in it etc.
Julia		Not trashing cotton well.
Bet	X <sup>2</sup>	Not trashing cotton well.
Creasy		Not trashing cotton well.
Harriet		Not trashing cotton well.
Maria		Not trashing cotton well.
Luckey	X	Not trashing cotton well.
O. Hannah	X	Not trashing cotton well.
Fanny		For not trashing cotton well.
'Lize	X	For not trashing cotton well.
Margaret	X	For not trashing cotton well.
Oney		For not trashing cotton well.
Betsey	X	For not trashing cotton well.
Mary	X	For not trashing cotton well.
Luce	X	For not trashing cotton well.
Hannah	X	For not trashing cotton well.
F. Jerry		For going to town with very dirty clothes and keeping himself so, "generally."
Patty		Inattention to work and herself.
Lavenia		Inattention to work and herself.
Mary		For scaring son Bat. "Stories, etc."
L. Hannah		For taking rails and breaking good ones.
Margaret		With hannah, but taking none but pieces.
O. Hannah	X	Not trashing cotton enough. Found the gin

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<sup>1</sup> Assembled from the Diary.

<sup>2</sup> X signifies whipping.

		stopped every time I've been down at the GNS. place.
Bet	X	Not trashing cotton enough.
Patience		Not trashing cotton enough.
Julia		Not trashing cotton enough.
Creasy		Not trashing cotton enough.
Maria		Not trashing cotton enough.
Harriet		Not trashing cotton enough, and dirty clothes.
F. Jerry	X	Up too late and out of his house.
Jerry	X	Up too late and out of his house.
Frank	X	Up too late and out of his house.
L. Tom	X	Up too late and out of his house.
Demps	X	Up too late and out of his house.
Bet	X	Up after 10 o'clock.
Ben		Up after 10 o'clock.
D. Bartley	X	Up after 10 o'clock.
Wade	X	Up after 10 o'clock.
Ralph	X	Up after 10 o'clock.
Jenney	X	Up after 10 o'clock.
Bartley	X	Up after 10 o'clock.
Betsey	X	Up after 10 o'clock.
Milley	X	Up after 10 o'clock.
Wash		Carelessness with his plough, horses, gear, etc
Oney		Carelessness with his plough, horses, gear, etc
Dave L.		Neglect in hauling cotton repeatedly.
Levi		Neglect in hauling cotton repeatedly.
Wash		Neglect of his horses.
Ralph	X	Neglect of his horses.
Randall		Up too late, sleeping in chair, etc.
Darcas		Up too late, sleeping in chair, etc.
Luce		Neglect of child. Its foot burnt.
Jim		Inattention to work, moving seed and impudence to Driver.
G. Jerry		Inattention to work.
Lize	X	Inattention to work.
Bet		
July	X	
Harriett	X	
Fanney	X	
Jenney	X	
Margaret	X	
Creasy	X	
Jinsey	X	
Maria	X	
Patience	X	
Grace	X	
Levi	X	Carelessness with his oxen and talking to the workman. Neglect of business.
Bartley	X	
Bet	XX <sup>3</sup>	Careless in dropping seed, disowning it, etc.

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3 Unusually severe whipping.

Anica		Meanness to the sick, and hiding from me, etc.
Dennis		Severity to his mules.
Wade		For lying, and out of his house.
Fanney		Hoeing to careless, and mad.
Oney		Sore back horse.
Oney		Carelessness, ploughing, etc.
Isreal		Impudence to the Driver.
Oney	X	Neglect in planting peas, etc.
Julia	X	Neglect in planting peas, etc.
Edny	X	Neglect in planting peas, etc.
Grace	X	Neglect in planting peas, and slow.
Milley	X	Neglect in planting peas, and slow.
Patience		Bad conduct, impudence to Driver and neglected work.
Creasy		Bad conduct, impudence to Driver and neglected work.
G. Jerry	X	Neglect in planting peas, and slow.
Jenny	X	Neglect in planting peas, and slow.
Patience	X	Did not go in the field till breakfast "late" and told the Driver "Alfred" she was sick and had been to the house for a dose of oil, and told me the same, found she had not been and she acknowledged the lie, but told Margaret she would give her some cloth if she would get the earache and tell Patty she had been here after oil, etc. And told me a dozen lies while questioning her. Gave her a very severe whipping.
Margaret		Made Hannah O. lead her round the quarter, for denying Patience had told her so, and after finding I would trace it up owned it. The first time ever knew her to do so.
Harriet	X	For not bringing her cotton up.
Patience	X	For not bringing her cotton up.
Maria		For not reporting herself when sick. Remained in the Quarter 3 days without my knowledge.
Patty		And all the house ones for general bad conduct. Can't let a peach get ripe, etc.
Jane		The meanest negro living. Filth in cooking. Saw me coming to the house at 120. left the kitchen, etc. Of near two days, foiled her having anything to do with anyone, and chained at nights.
O. Fill	X	Not reporting the plough hands for injuring the cotton covering up bottom limbs, etc.
Demps		Sound beating with my stick. Impudence of manner.
Atean	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Isreal	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Kiah	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Wade	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Tom L.	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.

Nat D.	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Jim T.	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Lewis	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Dave B.	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Sam	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
Wash	X	Covering up cotton limbs with ploughs.
B. Lucey		For meanness, washing, talking, etc.
Jane		For going over to Dr. Walker's during my absence, etc.
Patty		For going over to Dr. Walker's during my absence, etc.
Milley	X	For going over to Dr. Walker's during my absence, etc.
Mary	X	For going over to Dr. Walker's during my absence, etc.
Wash	X	Not picking cotton.
E. Nat	X	Not picking cotton.
E. Nat	X	Not picking cotton.
Maria	X	Not picking cotton.
D. Bartley	X	For not picking as well as he can, etc.
F. Jerry	X	For not picking as well as he can, etc.
L. Tom	X	For not picking as well as he can, etc.
Tom	X	For not picking as well as he can, etc.
D. Nat	X	For not picking as well as he can, etc.
Wash	X	Behaved very badly this season, so far.
T. Jim	X	Not picking well.
Fanny	X	Not picking well.
Wade	X	
L. Dave	X	Not picking well.
L. Dave	X	Not picking cotton, thinking he had an excuse.
Wash	X	Not picking cotton, thinking he had an excuse.
E. Jim	X	Not picking cotton, thinking he had an excuse.
Ben	X	Not picking cotton, and trashy.
Dave B.	X	Not picking cotton, and trashy.
B. Nat	X	Not picking cotton.
Milley	X	Not picking cotton.
Willie	X	Not picking cotton.
Grace	X	Not picking cotton.
Luce	X	Not picking cotton.
Harriet	X	Not picking cotton.
Ralph	X	Not picking cotton.
Maria		General bad picking during the 6 weeks past.
Dennis	X	Bad picking.
Patience		For quarreling with husband, etc.
Dave B.		For very trashy cotton and light weight with it.
Dave		
Dennis		
Isreal		
Jerry F.		
Jim T.		
Maria		None of it.
Leah		

B. Cato	
Ben	
Henry	
Tom B.	
Henry	X For not picking cotton enough and very trashy.
F. Jerry	X For not picking cotton enough and very trashy.
Isreal	X Hiding from work. Moving cotton, etc. and not picking.
Wade	X Hiding from work. Moving cotton, etc. and not picking.
Randal	Not picking cotton and stealing cotton, trashy, etc.
L. Dave	X Not picking cotton.
E. Jim	X Not picking cotton, and careless with his clothes.
L. Cato	X Not picking cotton
Creasy	X Not picking cotton.
Julia	X Not picking cotton.
Oney	X Not picking cotton.
Patience	X Not picking cotton.
Lewis	X Not picking cotton.
Sam	X Not picking cotton.
Atean	Very light weights at dinner. First time I have weights cotton in some time, etc.
D. Bartley	X Not picking cotton.
Dave L.	X Not picking cotton.
Demps	X Not picking cotton.
Dennis	X For not picking cotton as well as he can, etc.
Sam	X For not picking cotton.
Wash	X For not picking cotton.
B. Nat	X For not picking cotton.
Wash	X For not picking cotton.
Tom B.	X For not picking cotton.
Tom	X For not picking cotton.
E. Nat	X For not picking cotton.
Nat D.	X For not picking cotton.
Wade	X For not picking cotton.
Jim	X For not picking cotton.
Jim T.	X For not picking cotton.
Luce	X For not picking cotton.
Harriet	X For not picking cotton.
Creasy	X For not picking cotton.
Oney	X For not picking cotton.
Patience	X For not picking cotton.
Julia	X For not picking cotton.
Lewis	X For not picking cotton.
L. Cato	X For not picking cotton.
Randal	X For not picking cotton.
F. Jerry	X For not picking cotton.
Ben	X For not picking cotton.
Randal	Light weight. Very lazy.
Randal	Telling the driver lies, etc.
Jack	For not getting to work 'till 8 o'clock.

Dennis	For not getting to work 'till 8 o'clock.
Demps	For not getting to work 'till 8 o'clock.
Ben	For not getting to work 'till 8 o'clock.
Wade	For not getting to work 'till 8 o'clock.
Atean	For not getting to work 'till 8 o'clock.
Tom B.	Couldn't find him after whipping the above negors. Gave him a whipping that will last him some time.
Jim T.	Late and idle.
D. Nat	Late and idle.
Ralph	Late and idle.
Wash	Late and idle.
Sam	Late and idle.
Luce	Late and idle.
Patience	Late and idle.
Betsy	X Being up after hours, etc.
Milley	X Being up after hours, etc.
Willie	X Being up after hours, etc.
Luce	X Being up after hours, etc.
Jim T.	X Being up after hours, etc.
Mary	X Being up after hours, etc.
Oney	X Being up after hours, etc.
Jenny	X Being up after hours, etc.
G. Jerry	X Being up after hours, etc.
B. Lucey	Being up after hours, etc., "and attempting to hide something stoled, etc."
Hetty	X Being up after hours, etc.
Ralph	X Being up after hours, etc.
Dave B.	X Being up after hours, etc.
Jim E.	X Being up after hours, etc.
Sam	X Being up after hours, etc.
Randel	X Being up after hours, etc.
Darcas	X Being up after hours, etc.
Darcas	X Being up after hours, etc.
O. Center	Chickens stole before Christmas, etc.
Jim Butler	X For not attending to my dogs.
Dennis	Ran off after my ordering him to his house.
Jack	X Alfred reported idle in seeding corn.
Dennis	X Alfred reported idle in seeding corn.
Dave B.	X Alfred reported idle in seeding corn.
Dave	X Alfred reported idle in seeding corn.
Frank	X Alfred reported idle in seeding corn.
Cato	
Cato B.	
Lewis	
Wade	
Nat D.	
Isreal	
Jeny	
Jerry	
S. Ben	
Bartley	
Demps	



Randal	
Betsy	
Bet	
Lize	
Margaret	
Maria	
Julia	
Jenny	
Mahaly	
Oney	
Luce	
Hetty	
Hannah	
O. Hannah	
Darcas	
Fanny	
Leah	
Edny	
Maria	
Harriet	
Creasy	
Patience	
Cealy	
Lucky	
Mary	Impudent manner and not working.
G. Jerry	Not working.
Frank	Not working.
Demps	Not working.
Lize	For going to Robt. H. B. place without permission.
Jenny O.	For going to Robt. H. B. Place without permission.
Lewis	For riding horse at night.
B. Lucey)	Jim Butler's money was stolen from him while asleep in the kitchen. No one in there but those within the lines.
Jane )	
L. Dave )	
Julia )	
Joshua	General neglect of his stock.
O. Ben	General neglect of his stock.
Anica	X General neglect of his milk and things.
Wade	For whipping Bartly during my absence.
D. Nat	X Present and handed Wade a stick, says he did not know what he wanted with it. ( in the night ).
Patience	X Bad work and little of it. Not spinning.
Betsy	Not working.
Creasy	Not working.
Julia	Not working.
Milley	Not working.
Darcas	Not working, and pretending to be sick.
Fanny	Not working, and pretending to be sick.
Jenny	Not working, and pretending to be sick.
Grace	Not working, and pretending to be sick.

Edny	Not working.
Jack	Not working.
G. Jerry	Not working.
Jeny	Not working.
Frank	Not working.
Bet	Not working.
Candis	X Not working.
Randal	Severe whipping for not shipping cotton. A great shock.
G. Jerry	Killing hogs in the field. Ordered to get them out.
Jack	Killing hogs in the field.
L. Dave	Killing hogs in the field.
Frank	Killing hogs in the field.
Dennis	Killing hogs in the field.
G. Jim	For returning off of the road through Ruffin's Quarter. The measles there.
Dave B.	
D. Nat	
Isreal	
Randal	
Randal	For not picking cotton. Severe whipping.
Sam	For not picking cotton. Severe whipping.
Wash	For not picking cotton. Severe whipping.
Lewis	For not picking cotton. Severe whipping.
Nat D.	pretending to be sick.
Willie	Pretending to be sick, and not picking well.
L. Fill	For not picking, and trashy.
G. Nat	For not picking, and trashy.
B. Nat	For not picking, and trashy.
Thornton	For not picking, and trashy.
Anica	For neglect of sick. The worst kind of a whipping. Dave Bartley spitting blood since yesterday, January 14, 1844, and she said nothing about it to me. Now creeks so high can't go after a doctor.

## GLOSSARY

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Airing cotton: drying cotton.

Barring off cotton: the turning of the earth to the "middles" along the cotton row. The operation was usually performed with a one-horse plow.

Big House: the habitation of the plantation owner.. The traditional southern plantation home immediately is pictured in the mind. The term was only rarely applied to the house of the overseer on a plantation belonging to an absentee owner unless it was of unusual size.

Bolls: pods of cotton.

Bottom: low ground, usually in a river valley or next to a stream.

Breaking out middles: the first plowing of the land in the Spring months, usually done with turn-plows.

Camp: headquarters of runaway slaves usually in the deep recesses of the swamps.

Chopping cotton: the cultivation of the plant with hoes. The term was sometimes applied to the thinning process.

Coal wood: wood brought in from the forests and swamps to be burned for charcoal.

Commission merchant: the middle man who handled the planter's crop. He charged a commission which varied with the region. In many cases he acted as the planter's agent, advancing him credit and making purchases of supplies.

Cut: a small field, i. e., "Race Track Cut," "Little Gate Cut," "Little Creek Cut," "Gin House Cut," "Cherry Tree Cut," "Pond Cut," "Upper New Cut," and others.

Deering: deer hunting.

Drawing the seine: seining fish.

Driver: foreman of a slave gang. After 1839 Barrow gave his drivers much responsibility as he no longer employed overseers.

Driving: the hunting of deer or fox by a party of mounted men. Dogs might or might not be employed.

Factor: see commission merchant.

Fasted: a form of slave punishment in which the individual was deprived of one or more meals.

Fields: a separate block of land, larger than a cut, and usually devoted to the cultivation of one crop, i. e., "Penrice," "Clark," "Jack P. New Ground," "Lane P. New Ground."

Floating out logs: floating logs out of the swamps.

Frolic: a jollification; applied to both whites and blacks.

Gangs: the organization of a small group of slaves, under the direction of a driver, for the performance of one plantation operation.

Giging: fishing with a spear or small harpoon. The term also applies to riding in a two-wheeled, one-horse carriage.

Gin: a machine for cutting the lint or fiber from the cotton seed.

Gin house: a house in which the cotton was ginned.

Hand sawing: a form of slave punishment. The slave was given a task of cutting wood with a hand saw.

Harrow: an agricultural implement set with iron or wooden teeth used to level the ground and break the clods.

Hilling corn: drawing the earth up to the corn with hoes.

Hilling potatoes: storing potatoes in mounds of earth lined with straw, hay, or dried moss.

Hired men: men hired by the day to build or repair plantation buildings or machinery.

Hospital: building used for the caring of sick slaves.

Jail: building used for the detention of refractory slaves.

Knocking stalks: leveling the preceding year's stalks preparatory to the plowing of the soil.

Lice: plant lice.

Middles: the ridges between the rows of cotton or corn.

Moulding cotton (moulding corn): throwing the earth from the middles toward the cotton or corn plants.

New-ground: land only recently cleared and put in cultivation.

Old-land: land which had been in cultivation for several years.

Patrolle: patrolling of slave quarters, plantation buildings, etc., to guard against stealing or other disturbances.

Picking cotton: the gathering or harvesting of the cotton crop.

Plow lines: running of furrows preparatory to plowing or planting the crop.

Potatoes: while Barrow raised both sweet and Irish potatoes the term is usually applied to those of the sweet variety.

Pressing cotton: the compressing of cotton bales into the smallest unit possible to facilitate handling.

Pulling corn: the gathering of corn from the stalks.

Pulling fodder: the stripping of the leaves from corn for use as forage for livestock.

Racing: the organizing of slaves into two competing gangs. Various rewards were given the winning gang.

Raking heads: the cleaning of negro heads before inspection. The term was used to refer to the general cleaning up process enforced by Barrow once a week.

Rations: distribution of various food-stuffs to slaves.

Rattoons: shoots growing from the roots of preceding year sugar cane plantings.

Rolling logs: the assembling of waste timber for burning or of logs for sawing.

Road gang: negroes delegated to work the roads.

Runaway: any slave absent without leave.

Running cotton: plowing or hoeing close to the rows of growing cotton plants.

Scaffold: wooden platforms upon which damp or wet cotton was dried.

Scaffolding cotton: the act of drying cotton upon a scaffold.

Scaffold yard: the enclosure in which the scaffold was located.

Scraper: implement for shallow plowing. It was used in dry seasons for merely breaking the crust of the soil, thereby retaining the moisture.

Scrapping cotton: plowing cotton with a scraper.

Seeding cotton: separating the seeds from the lint; ginning.

Siding cotton: plowing very close to the cotton plants.

Splitting middles: dividing the ridges thrown up between the two rows of plants.

Staking: fastening a refractory slave to the ground with stakes. It was a severe punishment as the thongs which held the arms and legs were sometimes drawn very tightly. This punishment was used infrequently by Barrow.

Stalle horses: the act of keeping horses in small lots or in stalls.

Stand: a location where hunters waited for deer, turkeys or other game. Slaves were sometimes used to drive the game within gun-shot of the hunters.

Stubble: Stalks which grew from the roots of sugar cane a third year without replanting.

Suckers: shoots growing from corn stalks.

Suckering: the stripping of suckers from the corn stalks.

Sucklers: slave mothers with suckling babies. They were usually given light tasks near the slave quarters.

Syrup: the making of syrup from sugar cane. Syrup was an important by-product of the sugar industry.

Thinning cotton: the thinning of the separate cotton or corn plants to the proper distance apart in the row.

Trash gang: gang set at the task of separating trash from the cotton.

Trasher: machine for trashing cotton.

Whipping cotton: beating the cotton to free it from dirt.



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## A. PRIVATE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Amiss Papers. A collection of several hundred letters in the possession of Miss Leocadie Amiss, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Many of the letters are of the period of the Civil War but they reflect plantation conditions and customs in the Florida parishes.

Baker Collection. A collection of valuable plantation documents owned by Mrs. Laura Baker, Natchez, Mississippi. Probably the most valuable of the papers are the plantation diaries of Captain John Baptiste Nevitt and Everard Green Baker.

Barrow Collection, O. N. A collection of Barrow genealogical materials in the possession of Mr. O. N. Barrow, Danville, Virginia.

Barrow Family Records. A group of Barrow genealogical records owned by Mrs. D. I. Norwood, Highland plantation, Bains, Louisiana. Included are the MSS. "History of the Joor's" written in 1839 by S. B. Joor, the manuscript "Memoir of the Barrow Family" written by Martha Barrow Turnbull about 1860, and the MSS. "History of the Barrow Family" written by John J. Barrow about 1886.

Barrow Genealogy Collection. Mrs. Louise Barrow Browne, New Orleans, Louisiana, has assembled many papers, letters, and other materials relating to the history of the Barrow family. Not all of these materials have been examined; only those pertinent to Bennet H. Barrow and his

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\* Bibliographical note: Most of the items listed below have been of little actual assistance to the writer because of the fact that this work is primarily an editorial project and not a monographic study. They have, however, been of inestimable value in giving a fairly accurate picture of those glamorous days in the parish of West Feliciana, and the knowledge thus gained has aided materially in the general preparation of the work. Bennet H. Barrow was but a single planter living in a southern plantation society and to understand the individual one must attempt to understand the civilization in which he lived. This bibliography, then, has served as a guide to the writer at all stages during the preparation of "Bennet H. Barrow, Planter of West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana."

family.

Byran MSS. A small group of letters in the possession of Mrs. Annis Bryan, Natchez, Mississippi. Most of the letters refer to the Bryan family.

Butler Collection. This remarkable collection of ante-bellum manuscripts has been assembled by Miss Louise Butler, The Cottage Plantation, Bains, Louisiana. It contains several thousand items, including diaries, memoirs, letters, legal papers, etc., relating to the Florida parishes and Southwest Mississippi. Much of the material has been copied and checked by the collector, who is a local historian of some note.

Butler MSS., Reverend Thomas. A group of manuscripts in the possession of Miss Sarah Butler, New Orleans, Louisiana. For the most part they relate to the work of The Reverend Thomas Butler, one of the early ministers of West Feliciana parish. Included in this collection is the manuscript "Journal of the Proceedings of the Conventions of the Clergy and Churches in the State of Louisiana, 1838-1850," which is in reality a history of organized religion in the parish during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Connor Collection. A large and noteworthy collection of ante bellum manuscripts including memoirs, legal and official records, diaries, letters, pictures, scrap-books, etc., collected by Mrs. L. P. Connor, Natchez, Mississippi. The papers for the most part relate to Southwest Mississippi, though there are numerous items concerning the Tensas and West Florida regions of Louisiana.

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Lester Collection. A very important collection of ante-bellum newspapers, pamphlets, books, and manuscripts in the possession of Mr. George Lester, Waverly Plantation, Bains, Louisiana. Together with the Butler Collection, it forms an almost indispensable source for the ante-bellum period of the Florida parishes.

Mays Collection. A small collection of Barrow letters owned by Mrs. Robert Mays. This branch of the Barrow family is only distantly related to Bennet H. Barrow.

McDowell Collection. A group of manuscripts owned by Mrs. J. M. McDowell, Natchez, Mississippi. Most of the documents relate to the early history of Natchez.

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VITA

## VITA

The writer was born May 10, 1904, at Alba, Missouri. He attended the public schools and was graduated from Alba High School in 1922. After teaching one year in the elementary schools at Alba, Missouri, he attended Kansas State Teachers' College, Pittsburg, and received the B. S. degree from that institution in June, 1925. He taught in the high schools of Cedar Vale and Louisburg, Kansas, from 1925 to 1930, being Principal of the latter high school during the years 1928-1930. He attended the State University of Iowa during the summers of 1929, 1930, and 1931, and the year 1930-31, receiving the degree of Master of Arts in February, 1931. During the year 1930-31 he was Demonstration Instructor in the Demonstration High School, of the State University of Iowa, serving under Professor Ernest Horn. During the year 1931-32 he was Acting-Head of the Department of History, Drury College, Springfield, Missouri. In 1932 he came to Louisiana State University as an Assistant in the Department of History, in which capacity he served until 1935, when he became an Instructor in the Department. He was married to La Verna Mae Rowe of Purcell, Missouri, on May 8, 1925. They have one son, Edwin Adams, Jr.

Edwin Adams Davis

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND  
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE  
BATON ROUGE, LA.

ARTS AND SCIENCES  
OF HISTORY

May 20, 1936

To the Dean of the Graduate School:

Mr. Edwin Adams Davis took his final examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy on this date, and is hereby recommended for that degree by the undersigned committee.

W. H. Stephenson  
Walter Richard  
Charles E. Smith  
E. W. Dutton  
E. W. Dutton  
R. L. Carleton

APPROVED:

W. H. Stephenson  
Major Professor

Charles W. Pickett  
Dean of the Graduate School

COMMITTEE:

Walter Prichard

Emile

E. W. Cowan

Chas. E. Smith

R. L. Carleton

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_